1796 There are few Caribs who have women and children who do not participate in the elétoüac feast, for it is one of their most solemn. It sometimes takes four months to prepare for it. The hair of the women and children is shaved close to their temples. At this feast they begin to feed fish to their small children. They do not permit their children to eat fish for a long time, because of the fish bones and also because fish causes colic and stomach cramps. The elders and the married men bring birds of prey. The children bring in little birds, and the married men bring big and full grown birds that they have taken from their nests and reared for this ceremony. The captain is invited to perform. He takes the birds and beats the heads of the birds against the heads of the performers so that they are bloody. He gashes both the children and the older men. He puts the children into their hammocks where they must remain without eating, and they must keep the position which he has given them. If they do not remain in this position it is believed that they will become hunch-backed or deformed according to the new position they might take. The birds of the married men are crushed if they have had children or have killed some Arawaks. With a quantity of black pepper or pimento, they rub their wounds. You can imagine how cold they are! In order to restore them they are given the heart of their bird to eat, but nothing more. Fearing that this may cause some indigestion, the ●[278] next morning they go to a drinking pot full of a tobacco liquid and drink long drafts of it which makes them vomit everything. [202]

[852] They have a feast in which the smallest children begin to eat fish. The older children have their ears pierced and their hair cut. [608] [385] The ioubénene is the man who incises them at their feasts and [285] is considered as their godfather. [191] There are certain people who are asked to make small wicker tables, baskets carried on the back, and other utensils necessary for the feast called elétoüac. [317]

301 Among all the guests there are six or eight who rub their bodies with elemi gum that is still fresh from the tree. They glue on small feathers and down from the bird called Festu en Queue. They crown 535 their heads with long feathers of the Aras [macaw?] bird. Then they 273 dance two by two around the carbet. One extends his right arm on the shoulders of another who in turn passes his left arm around the neck of his companion. The others follow in a like manner. Dancing two by two, they arrive at the place where there are big calabashes full

The coûlaoûa is a fruit which looks like pineapple but is smaller. 248 It furnishes hemp for the Caribs. [183]

The Carib cabbage is called táya. I have seen several kinds 262 among the Caribs, who consider it to be a good remedy. I have not [278] delved into the problem of learning its virtues. I know there is one kind which has red-ribbed leaves. They press the juice which they mix [301] with urucu [body paint] and redden themselves with it, firmly believing that they make themselves pleasing to their enemies and that they have nothing to fear when they take this precaution. The other kinds of cabbages which are more common are added to their cooking instead of seasoning, and their tips are prepared like Spanish chard. The Caribs cook the roots and make a drink out of it. [453]

262 The Carib women take termite nests and fill their pots, which 222 are their ovens, and add some rotten and dry wood. When the fire is set it cooks slowly. [176] The Caribs are fond of honey and they know the trees where it can be found. When they see a honey fly going to a tree they place their ear against the tree. If they hear the buzzing of honey flies they fell the tree and take the honey which they distribute to each one in his calabash. They mix it with water and drink it immediately. The honey flies have no stinger although they swarm on the Caribs and tickle them with their tiny legs so much that they can scarcely bear it. [350] Lice are an appreciated delicacy. The Carib women roll them between their teeth and savor them for a quarter of an hour. I have tried to make them ashamed of it, but whatever I said about their imagined delicacy failed to provoke the disgust which they reserve only for lice born on the heads of those from another nation. [140]

Toads are eaten at Martinique like frogs. They are good. [239]

252 The Caribs do not have the patience to pluck the feathers out of a bird. I have been with them to the Saints where they catch birds called tuérou. First they cut off half of the wings on a piece of wood. Then they throw the bird in the fire, turning it over several times. They reach in and put it on a grill without cleaning it, and allow it to lie enveloped by smoke, sometimes for quite a while. They eat it without a sauce. They peal off only the outer skin and remove the guts. [240] The wives of the Caribs cook freshly caught fish in fresh water, often half-cleaned without being scaled. They season it with pepper. After they have poured off the sauce they use some small sticks of wood which they have taken from the fire to remove the fish from the pot. To divide and distribute it cleanly, they wash their hands with a mouthful

10. Lore and Learning

757 The Caribs have no knowledge of liberal arts or mechanical skills, not even having words to express them. However, they practice them to the extent that nature has given them knowledge, and necessity requires it. They do not know how to open a vein, but this does not mean that they are ignorant of drawing blood if they must. The instrument they use is neither a lancet nor scalpel, and they do not pierce the vein nor make a deep cut. Instead, they slightly scratch the skin with an instrument which they make from
413 an agouti thigh bone which has an agouti tooth imbedded in one end and is tied with a cotton thread. They sharpen the tooth, and holding the handle press lightly on the flesh and make scratches. Then they rub off the blood with oualloman straw. [190]

[157] [263] All of the Caribs are extremely melancholy, moody, and silent. They have appetites for odd foods as if they were pregnant women, eating chalk, or if they do not have it, eating earth. The women and children all do it, which make them dry and finally causes their death. I have always in my accounts mentioned their
751 melancholy and the difficult nature of their language. It has been
754 commonly said that the devil beats them. I have never seen nor heard of such a thing from the Caribs in all of the nineteen years I have spoken with them. The reason why such a statement has been made is twofold. Firstly, when lying on the left side their spleen is compressed by the left elbow. It sends black fumes to the brain which causes black and horrible dreams, as if they were at grips with maboyas or were being taken away by them. I have taken some of the Caribs in my arms when I saw them in such pains. I wiped off their sweat and carried them out of their hammocks, and they would have willingly fallen on their knees to thank me because I had protected them from the maboyas who were beating them. The second reason for the statement that the devil beats them is that at the slightest harm they suffer they say it is a spell or an evil given by maboyas or sorcerers. This does not mean that they have been beaten, but rather that they have been sent or given such evils through spells. [341]

278 The value of herbs is not unknown to the Caribs who collect
757 them when they are sick in order to drink as medicine the juice which they draw out. Ordinarily the herbs are crushed between their hands and put into a pot full of water. They rub this mixture on the sick

person, whom they expose to the noonday sun, and let the medicine dry for a time. They know trees with great medicinal powers, and they peel off the second bark and crush it to press out the juice which they drink as a medicine. The women sometimes specialize so thoroughly in this profession that they are suspected of sorcery. They have killed certain women because of these suspicions, although one is never certain of the truth of these charges. [320]

The Caribs sometimes wear around their neck necklaces made of small, long calabashes as big as the finger, and filled with Mansfénix meat. Others wear bits of jaguar skin, claws of birds of prey, and other things which they wear as relics, especially at their feasts. At other times they always have some of these around their neck. I do not know whether this is out of superstition or to protect themselves from magic spells, or from an evil, or in the hope of becoming valiant. It seems they wear them for all these reasons and especially for the last two. [192] The Caribs when they are sick do not tolerate married people visiting them during their illness because they believe that their presence would impede their recovery. [365]

The chípiou tree has sap which is so bitter that it is used to designate all bitter things. If the Caribs handle its bark they communicate such a great bitterness to everything they touch that these things could not be used. They pound this bark, press out its juices and rub people with it who have yaws, that is to say, the great pox. I believe that it has some benefit against this evil. [160] They dry a reed, burn it, and rub the ashes on those who have yaws. The stems of the reed are used to lath roofs or enclose the walls of their houses. [351] Yaws is a natural disease which is as common in the islands as syphilis is in France. The Caribs cure themselves easily and without danger, not only because the temperature of the air is very even, but also because of the powerful remedies growing in the Torrid Zone. These remedies were taken by an 1,800 league voyage to France and lost their potency. They use the juice of chípiou bark which they rub on the outside, blacken themselves with Genipa juice, and use ashes of reeds. They take the juice of some vines like the mibi which is mixed with the grated back part of conch shell. When the big pimples burst they apply little tufts of raw cotton which binds the lesions and prevents deformity. But yaws are not very dangerous although common among

757 them, and all the above mentioned remedies heal without steam
[164] baths or mercury. Conversely, small pox which is very rare among them is very dangerous in the same way that the plague is for us in France. [478]

751 They believe that pains in the joints such as gout are caused by
755 the boyes of South America and their gods. [426] They use a light-colored green stone as a remedy for kidney stones, to help women give birth, and for epilepsy. The women hang them around their neck like one of the most precious of their jewels. They receive them from the men who bring them from South America. There are also
757 imitation green stones which have no value. [445] The riboúlichi
[814] is a true rush if one of its roots is crushed and absorbed in some liquor by a woman in childbirth;it makes the delivery easy, but if too much is taken the child will be harmed as has been actually seen. [439]
[164] Ophthalmia is a common disease among the Caribs which appears almost every year, and is spread in the islands inhabited by the Caribs. It causes a fair number among them to be one-eyed. During the first five or six years this evil did not seem to approach the French, but now it makes its violence felt too often. [397] The Caribs purge themselves only when they are extremely sick. However, they only eat crabs, Lambis, bugaus, and some other poor nourishment which causes many boils. They pierce some boils with a ray's tail and squeeze the others to empty them. If the pus is such that it will not come out they take a hair which they dip into it and empty it. [340]
757 The chibouleléme is a common weed which the Caribs boil in water.
● 278 They then use the broth to relieve themselves from constipation. [147] The Caribs shred the skin of the palm Christi and make a compress for the forehead as a remedy for headache. They heat the leaf and rub the afflicted part with it and receive relief. [25] Balium is a herb with a stench used as remedy against fever. [171]

752 When the Caribs rid themselves of chiggers they make a small cut with a fish bone or a sharp little splinter and press them between their nails and make them leave. They also use shark oil or porpoise oil to make them leave or urucu mixed with oil of couàiieu. [148]

757 Herbs which cure the wounds made by poison arrows are called
[20] roúlàla. [475] To cure arrow wounds they use a palma Christi leaf which they warm on the fire and rub on the wound. According to Captain Baron one of his hosts had been hit in the heel by a poisoned

721 women who retell everything that has been committed by those against whom they are going to wage war. They talk about harm done by the enemy to their ancestors, even reporting what they consider insults. To quarrel with a Carib is the same as to strike him, and to strike him is the same as to murder him. When you offend one Carib you offend the whole nation. But it doesn't work the other way around; for if you do good deeds for one of them the community does not feel itself benefited.

Adter these harangues the children dance, jump, and weep, demanding that these insults be revenged. All the young men become very excited and testify to their desire and courage. Finally the old men order war.

726 Besides waging war against the French in Guadeloupe and against the English in St. Lucia, Antigua, Montserrat, and other islands occupied against the will of the Caribs, they in addition make war against the Galibis who are savages of the continent and have an alliance with the Arawaks who also live on the continent. They have no difficulty taking these enemies by surprise, for they expose themselves in their canoes and pirogues to a sea journey of at least 200 leagues. They go from island to island and predict with sufficient certainty the bad weather and storms by studying the sky and stars, about which they have an excellent knowledge.

[815 827]

411 726 [773] Their weapons are bows of redwood and arrows made of a certain reed, the end of which, instead of being tipped with iron, consists of a very sharply pointed wood which is poisoned. They set fire to leaf-covered houses by attaching burning cotton to the end of their arrows. They do not always aim straight at their enemies but aim high and they are so skillful in this that most of their shots take effect. They can also shoot behind themselves when running away, and when they are hotly pursued at sea they stretch out full-length in their canoes in order to protect themselves, and shoot continuously without ceasing, even bending their bows with their feet. They also have spears of redwood, hard and heavy, which they hurl very well. For close fighting they use clubs which are big pieces of redwood, flat, a good inch thick, and almost half a foot wide at the end, with a length of three feet. They crush the head of their enemy as easily as we might do with a crowbar.

726 All their wars are waged by surprise early in the morning just before dawn and are accompanied by horrible screaming. To look more

462 begin to comb and arrange his hair and paint him with urucu [body
512 paint]. This being done, they make bread for the next meal—for they make fresh bread every day. Then they cook what their husbands and children have brought from hunting and fishing. They serve it to them with cassava when it is cooked. But it is not true, as Mr. de Rochefort assumes, that the women were obliged to get venison, or had to fish [in streams] far off in the woods or at the edge of the sea.

After this they go to cultivate their gardens and plow their lands with a big pointed stick which is like a boar spear. They don't use this stick in any way like a hoe. The women also concern themselves with the planting of provisions, cultivating them, uprooting manioc, grating manioc, pressing and sifting it, and cooking cassava out of it. They also make ouicou for their social gatherings. In addition to all of this, they bear the brunt of the care and feeding of their children. Those who remain at home busy themselves by making cotton hammocks and this takes them as much time as it takes their husbands to make pirogues. They are also very busy pressing the hulls of covaheu [Breton: couáheu] and palmetto in order to get oil for the head and hair of their husbands. It is necessary to observe that it would be unthinkable for a man to be seen aiding his wife in any way.

●[278] The obligations which the women have in caring for the sick and binding the wounded have given them a marvelous knowledge of herbs, which they use to treat a large number of ailments.

5. Commerce

437 No kind of trade exists among the Caribs, neither buying nor selling, for they give each other very liberally all the things with which they can aid their fellowmen, provided they do not inconvenience themselves too much. No nation has ever been more in need of the manufactures which industry has made common in all
439 the nations of Europe. Before European contact, when the Caribs wished to cut down trees to make a house, they had nothing to use but stone axes. If they wished to fish they could use only hooks of caret turtle shell. If they planned to build a pirogue in order to go to war against their foes, they endured all the trouble imaginable

5: Rouse E-4 (no date) 1948 ST13 Callinago ST13 (1650-1700)

figures through which the maboya gave oracular answers. There were, however, no household idols or priests, as among the *Arawak*. 756

The *Carib* often attributed sickness to the influence of sorcerers who had obtained control of maboya. They consulted a shaman to determine the identity of the sorcerer and were usually directed to a woman, from whom no reprisal was to be feared. The woman was made to pick up a shell or a fishbone and to confess that she had administered this in food to cause the disease. She was then tortured and killed. 754

The shaman was also brought in to effect cures. He worked in the same way as at other séances, setting up a table bearing food offerings and oüicou at one end of the hut and calling his maboya with songs and tobacco smoke. The shaman first asked his maboya whether the disease would be fatal. If so, he abandoned the ceremony and told the patient to prepare for death. If not, the shaman and his maboya approached the patient, touched the part of his body which pained him, sometimes sucking it, and drew out an object—an imaginary poison, thorns, pieces of bone, or splinters of wood and stone. These were supposed to have caused the disease. Then the shaman rubbed the sick person's body with the juice of the *Genipa* fruit, producing a dark brown color. When the patient had recovered, he gave a feast for the shaman, at the same time providing food offerings for the latter's maboya. 755 [465]

The *Carib* fasted upon a number of occasions: At puberty; when becoming a chief, a father, or a warrior; after killing an enemy; and at the death of a close relative. A man might also be asked to fast when a relative was sick, in the hope that it might relieve the pain. A typical schedule of fasting has already been described above (p. 557) in connection with the birth of the first child. The people did not vomit for religious purposes, but only to rid their stomachs of an excess of food. 785

Women knew of certain herbs, fruits, roots, oils, and gums which they used to cure diseases. For indigestion they prepared an infusion from the bark of the chipou tree and from the *Lambys* shell; they had another drink made by pounding up the bark of certain trees and vines when the sap was thick. If the indigestion had been caused by eating crabs, they ate as an antidote the flesh of the manatee or tortoise, which caused the body to break out into pimples. Then they treated the latter with the juice of the junipa nut or with sap from the leaves of the balisier tree mixed with the ashes of burned seeds. The former was also used to heal wounds. The wives sucked the poison out of snake bites, applied an infusion to the wound, and also prepared a drink as an antidote. They had another antidote for arrow poisoning. Bathing was used to treat some wounds, sweat baths for others. Sometimes they scarified the body to draw off blood. 757 [278]

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
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It is not usual for husband and wife to spend the whole night together—each retires to sleep on a separate couch or mat. 513

Rochefort mentions the fact that the Island Carib of his day never touched a pregnant woman. This is still true, be the woman his own wife or another. 943

I have heard a married woman protest that she was not normally pregnant, but that a piai had put a tête-chien (dog-headed Dominica constrictor) in her belly. On the other hand, legend reports this snake as having had connections with women in the old days.

Parturition is accomplished in a squatting or sitting posture (in the old days by straddling a hammock split lengthwise down the middle), and with the assistance of some old sage-femme, whose manipulations and remedies are of very doubtful benefit to the patient. After giving birth, the Carib woman remains confined to the house for 40 days; i. e., until her "retour de couches." 944

Suckling by the mother is general, and often of long duration. I came across a little boy of about 4 years, who, after helping his elder sister to carry up water from the river, used to claim and obtain refreshment from his mother's "tote-totes" (breasts; children's speech, possibly from Carib "totaka," to support). In the all-too-frequent event of a woman dying in childbirth, the maternal aunt or even the grandmother will suckle the infant. I was unable to learn their names, with two exceptions: the ripe fruit of the corossol (*Anona muricata*) and a berry they call kurupùm (*Renealmia exaltata* (?)). Whatever the cause, I myself witnessed the case of a woman whose youngest child was a grown man, giving the breast with apparent success to her niece's newborn baby. 853 [278]

Clever as the Carib woman would seem to be in inducing the rise of her milk, so her attempts to get rid of it appear clumsy to us. When the time for weaning has come, her usual procedure is to milk herself onto a fire stone, or, better still, into the nest hole of a species of large black ant, known locally as fourmis mordantes.

The naming of infants has, nowadays, become confused with Christian baptism, though the baptismal name itself is rarely, if ever, used in after life, its place being taken by another, chosen concurrently. Despite the priest's protests, baptism is delayed until at least one month after birth—that is, until the septa of the cranium have joined. The choice of names falls to the godparents—to the godfather in the case of a boy; to the godmother in the case of a girl. Carib names, such as Wàkanik, Màruka, Cimanàri, are known to have been used as recently as 20 years ago, but no living example remains. The nonbaptismal name now takes their place. Most families bear surnames, or, as they call them, "titles"—relics, in all 553

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
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On the other hand, Caribs consider the white man's custom of manuring land as disgusting, and would never knowingly eat food so grown. The finding of dung in a provision ground is sufficient reason for abandoning a part or the whole of the cultivation. A serious dispute arose, while I was in the Reserve, because one family accused members of another family of leaving excrement on their land. Perhaps this is one more reason why the Caribs' gardens are so far from their dwellings.

There does not seem to be any hard and fast rule with regard to the division of labor between the sexes, except such as physical fitness dictates. Hunting, fishing, sawing, land clearing, canoe and house building are obviously men's occupations, here as elsewhere. Work on the provision ground is fairly evenly shared. Twine and cords, torches, shark oil, Carib panniers, manioc sifters, and "couleuvres" are made by men usually, though not exclusively. Vegetable oil (palma Christi, known here as "carapat"), open, radial kitchen and garden baskets (corbeilles), the cleaning and (until recently) spinning of cotton, the preparation of farine and cassava bread—except for the grating of the manioc, at which the men often help—and all other household duties are women's work. Although a Carib be returning straight to his house after a fishing expedition, he expects his women folk to meet him on the shore and to carry the fish home. When compelled to carry a load himself, the Carib man always puts it on his shoulder or back, whereas the women have adopted the Creole negro custom of bearing burdens on the head.

River bathing is a daily habit with all Caribs, but once a month the Carib man takes a special kind of bath in the privacy of his own home with water in which certain herbs have soaked. The names of three so used are: the sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*), sou marqué (*Cassia bicapsularis*), and kudjuruk (or kugurdrk—unidentified). The bath must be taken on the night when the moon is new or "good" (that is, for planting), and its object is that of a spiritual antiseptic, said to counteract and defeat the evil effects of possible sorcery or pial directed against the bather during the preceding moon.

A few simple remedies used by the Caribs of Dominica today are, in the case of—

Local inflammation: Half of an ember-baked green papaya applied hot as a poultice.

Internal contusion: The gum of the lowland red gommier (*Bursera gummifera*) as a plaster.

Wounds and cuts: The pounded heart of the kanu tree(?), together with salt. Shark oil and pimento leaves are also used, as is the fat of the Tête-Chien boa.

Flux, or intestinal chill: An infusion of the bark or roots of the wild white guava.

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
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757 Colic: An infusion of the seeds or leaves of the bay tree (Carib, Aeburu: *Pimenta acris*).
278 Debility in women: A concoction made from the tuber called Carib (or red) chalotte (*Cipura* sp.?).
Lack of appetite: Water in which has soaked Cimaruba chips (wild quassia, *Simaruba amara*).

These are straightforward household simples. Others partake more of the nature of charms. Of the latter, the best known are: "Surette de montagne," a sweet-smelling vine found only in the depths of the high-woods, and "l'envers caraïbe" (*Maranta indica* sp.?), a rare species of small-leaved native arrowroot (not the ordinary white or red maranta) with reddish leaf stems and tubers that go straight down and are said to intertwine or "plait" themselves. Native tobacco and a stupefying variety of ivy, or caapi, are known, but are not, as far as I could learn, now used. Earth or clay is eaten [261] by some, but the practice is regarded as a vice by the community. On the other hand, many vouch for the good effects of one's own or another's urine, drunk warm, as a cure for poisoning or stomach ache (an emetic?); while others chew the gum of the gommier (*Dacryodes hexandra* and *Icica heptaphylla*) in order to improve their wind." [832] An aphrodisiac, known as "poudre pine tortue" (powdered turtle's penis) is made and sold in the island.

787 "A Carib does not dream for nothing," I was told. He believes his dreams announce or portend grave events affecting himself, his family, or his friends. It certainly is amazing how often such omens prove correct.

753 All serious sickness and death itself are looked upon, not as the
754 result of disease or age, but as the works of extra-natural agencies known as piai. Thus, little confidence is placed in ordinary medical means of restoring health. The Caribs do not fear death, but are terrified at the idea of the hospital, and especially of being separated from their home environment in their last moments.

754 A piai, to become effective, must be instituted by three persons—usually two men and a woman. The actual harm in any piai is wrought by spirits who have, so to speak, no personal grievance, but, bullet-like, are merely unleashed and set onto a given person when he or she unwittingly touches some object—such as a stick or branch placed across the path—harmless in itself, but magically dealt with by the piaimen in order to make it the agency for releasing the piai. So one may, by good luck or cunning, escape a piai intended for oneself, or fall, by ill chance, under a piai intended for somebody else.

"They are taking life tonight," said an old Carib friend of mine the night he died of what I took to be a pleurisy brought on by the enforced wearing of wet clothes. I have often wondered whether he referred to the persons he believed to have bewitched him or to the death spirits themselves. Three years later (two weeks ago as I write now)

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
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The most common river fish are popularly known as mullet, pike, 226
"flathead" (têtard, Carib: makúba), "cocos," "loches." To these must be added two varieties of fresh-water crayfish (Carib: wàçu, and smaller, içulu), prawns ("bouques"), and shrimps (chevrettes). A kind of river periwinkle, called vignot, is also eaten. Methods of capture vary a good deal: flatheads, prawns, shrimps, and sometimes small crayfish are "felt for" under rocks and banks; cocos are caught with hook and prawn for bait, or with the épervier at the river mouth. A special and rather curious method of catching crayfish is sometimes practiced: a length of caapi (species of ivy) is passed through a bit of raw manioc which is then hung in the water, the other end of the caapi being attached to a rock or stone on the bank. Returning some hours later, usually after dark, the fisherman finds a quantity of stupefied crayfish collected around the manioc, whose poisonous juice has rendered them incapable of flight. Loche, pike, and mullet may be caught with hook and worm, or in a special trap known as bachoua, now becoming extremely rare. A more usual method, however, is by poisoning the river.

Two fish poisons are known and used commonly by the Caribs of 226
Dominica today: the leaves of the shrub *Phyllanthus conami* (usually 278
called "énivrage") and the applelike fruit of a small to medium sized tree called bâbarra or bambarra (*Diospyros* sp., *Piscidia erythrina* L.). The latter is more powerful, but may be used only in fresh water, whereas the leaves of the conami are sometimes employed to poison small creeks and pools along the seashore. Each member of the party (women for the most part) arrives at the river with a load of conami leaves. These are then pounded and thrown in the river. As soon as the fish begin to jump out of the water to escape the effects of the poison the Caribs dive in and seize them. The bâbarra apples are also crushed, but are enclosed in a basket which is immersed only for the time being, as it would poison the water for almost a week were it left there.

A third variety of fish poison, used by some, is the bark of the tree known in Dominica as bois savonette (soap tree), bois cicérou, or bois pipiri. It is a large tree with small, diamond-shaped leaves which froth when rubbed in water, and bears a pod about 6 inches long containing three smooth red seeds the size of a pea. Possibly a species of *Lonchocarpus*. Not to be confused with the soap bush called Malvinia or Sang Dragon. All catalogs of West Indian flora are very confused and contradictory.

Cultivation

The Caribs' main food supply comes from individual family gardens 241
or provision grounds, made by burning the forest (usually secondary growth) and sowing or planting in the ashes between the burned tree

9: Ober N-5 (1876-1878) 1895
ST13 Callinago ST13

The Caribs have an ancient and natural language, such as is peculiar to them, and also a bastard speech, with foreign words, chiefly Spanish, intermixed. Among themselves they always use the natural language, in conversing with Christians the bastard speech. . . . The women also have a different speech from the men. . . . It hath been observed that the men are less amorous than the women; both are naturally chaste; and when those of other nations look even earnestly at them, and laugh at their nakedness, they were wont to say to them, 'you are to look on us only between both the eyes.' . . . Yet, it must be confessed that some have degenerated from that chastity, and many other virtues of their ancestors, the Europeans having taught them many vices,—to the perpetual infamy of the Christian name. . . They are great lovers of cleanliness, bathing every day; are generous, hospitable and honest. . . . It is also a manifest truth, confirmed by daily experience in America, that the holy sacrament of baptism being conferred on these savages, the devil never beats or torments them afterwards as long as they live.[1]

"The Carib boys were compelled to pierce their food suspended from a tree with an arrow, before they could eat it. . . . They are said to have used poisoned arrows, dipping them in what must have been the urrari poison, obtained from Guiana. . . . Like many natives, they eradicated the beard and the hair on other parts of the body. . . They compressed the skulls of new-born infants; and a hatred of the Arrowaks was instilled. . . . Their cabins were built of poles fixed circularly in the ground and drawn together at the top, covered with palm leaves, and in the centre of each village was a building larger than the others for public assemblage.

"The Caribbeans are a handsome, well-shaped people, of a smiling countenance, middle stature, having broad shoulders

[1] See Davies's "History of the Caribby Islands." London, 1666.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

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3. Species which are believed to have medicinal [3], questionable medicinal, or magic virtues [4].

Doubtless all plant lore is on the wane, but the third class is the only one which presents serious difficulties with regard to obtaining information, at least so far as present day knowledge goes. This class of plant lore belongs now only to a few old men and women who regard such knowledge as their private property and are less willing to part with it, even for money, than a zealous housewife with her grandmother's cooking recipes.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

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The authors have assembled the following notes on the uses of certain plants by the Island Caribs of Dominica following independent investigations in the fields of botany and ethnography.

Intensive botanical studies in Dominica were initiated by the senior author in 1937. The following year, aided by a grant from the Gray Herbarium, and again in 1940, as a Parker Fellow of Harvard University, he made return visits to continue this work. During the period of this field work brief visits to the Carib Reserve were made during which the majority of plants on which this publication is based were collected. A number of additional specimens of Carib economic plants also have been collected and forwarded from Dominica by the junior author.

Research by the junior author began in Dominica in 1930 and since 1936 the island has been his home. Visits to the Carib Reserve have been frequent, and the results of some of his ethnographical studies appear as citations in the bibliography of this work (58 - 62).

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In this contribution the International Rules governing botanical nomenclature have been followed. Certain binomials which have appeared in basic West Indian floras are no longer accepted by botanists as valid names. These have been included in synonomy. The plant families follow the arrangement

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[3] Many of these are still used and so are enumerated in the pages that follow, but some apparently have been long forgotten. Among the latter is one given by DuTertre (18) under the Carib name, *ribillici*. Benzoni (7) describes it as "a real reed (jone)," whose needle-thin roots thicken at intervals like the big beads of a rosary. One of these, when crushed, will bring about a "painless accouchement... more than one would injure the child." *Ribillici* sounds as though it has some of the botanical characteristics of an *Heteranthera* but the authors know of no plant like it from Dominica. However, Benzoni also calls *Isolepis cernua* a "jone" so it is difficult to know what kind of plant to look for.

[4] The rarer the plant the more marvelous are its properties as a charm among the Island Caribs. In fact certain species like the *cornette de montagne* are so rare that they appear to exist only in legend.

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13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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abortive fruits of *Theobroma cacao*, z'herbes balié, and the like) to promote a luxuriant growth. The fanlike blades or « heads » are used for thatch and the stems as thatching rods, screens, and lattice doorways. The ashes of burnt leaves are mixed with the sap from stems of balisier (*Heliconia* spp.) and juicy pulp of the genip (*Genipa americana*), and then are rubbed on the bodies of those suffering from yaws (*framboesia*).

Specimen citation: 3197.

Paspalum laxum Lamarck, Tabl. Encycl. 1: 176. 1791.

Paspalum glabrum Poiret in Lam. Encycl. 5: 30. 1804.

Chien-Dent.

This is a common coastal grass to be found in sandy or rocky soils throughout the West Indies.

Caribs place the whole plant in water which is then given as a drink to infants in order to hasten teething.

Specimen citation: 3309.

Saccharum officinarum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 54. 1753.

kánise (from Spanish *caña*).

A native of southeast Asia cultivated in the tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres.

The growing of sugarcane was initiated in the West Indies early in the sixteenth century and the plant is now the most important product of many of the islands. Although unimportant in Dominica sufficient cane is grown to supply local demands.

Patches of sugarcane are to be found in the Carib Reserve and nearly every hut has in its surrounding yard a primitive single-post-and-lever-type of cane press with which to express the « vesou » or juice. The latter is used in place of refined sugar in cocoa, coffee, and for general cooking.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Vetiveria zizanioides (Linnaeus) Nash in Small, Fl. Southeast. U. S. 67. 1903.

Vetiveria arundinacea Griseb. Fl. Br. W. I. 559. 1864.

Andropogon zizanioides Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 79. 1903.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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species of z'ailes mouche, which apparently were known as « langue boeuf » in the day of Breton (7).

Specimen citation: 1599, 3249, 3664.

ARACEAE. Arum Family.

Anthurium palmatum (Linnaeus) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 3: 80. 1841. *mîbi* (generic for « bush-rope »).

« Hard » *mîbi*, as this species is called (as opposed to *Monstera pertusa* which is known as « soft » *mîbi*), is apparently known only from Dominica where it occurs as a common but weak liana on trunks of trees in moist forests at middle elevations and at lower elevations on the windward coast.

The aërial climbing and binding roots are used by the women for making spiral basketry. After scraping them to remove the cortex, the roots are either dyed yellow by rubbing with a tuber of saffran (*Curcuma longa*) or mauve by rubbing with the moistened leaves of the tree known as tan (*Picramnia pentandra*). From the scraping of the bark of *mîbi* together with those from the bottom of the conch shell (patois: lambi; Carib *wâtabwi*) a concoction was formerly made to be taken as a cure for yaws (Carib: *yáya*, « prickle »).

[285] [386] [278]

Specimen citation: 36 (T), 3205, 3248.

Caladium bicolor (Aiton) Ventenat, Descr. Cels. t. 30. 1800. Dasheen Marbré, Hale Bois.

An American species of uncertain origin but believed to be a native of Amazonia or the Guianas. It is much cultivated as an ornamental for its beautiful leaves.

[247]

This arum is esteemed as a yard or house plant in Dominica and frequently escapes.

The Caribs use the heated rhizome as a poultice for extracting splinters.

[228 752]

Specimen citation: 1573.

Colocasia esculenta (Linnaeus) Schott, Melet. 1: 18. 1832. *Caladium colocasia* W. F. Wight in Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 9: 206. 1905.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Dasheen [14]

X 824 Numerous horticultural varieties of this species, whose native home is India and the Orient, are cultivated for their edible corms throughout the tropical and warm temperate regions of the world. The taro of the Pacific Isles is also a horticultural form of this species, and is eaten boiled or baked like potatoes or in the form of a fermented paste called poi. The dasheen is generally [252] prepared, in the West Indies, in the same manner and in as many varied ways as potatoes; in addition a good flour can be made from the tubers, and the young shoots when properly prepared may be eaten as a green vegetable. In Dominica the dasheen is [262] one of the favorite and staple foods of the Creole population and is found in all home provision gardens.

The Carib Indian has in more recent years « borrowed » this plant for his own usage, and grows it for the corms and young shoots.

Specimen citation: 9 (T), 24 (T), 32 (T).

Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacquin) Schott, Melet. 1: 20. 1832.
Dumb Cane. — Sigin, Sijin, Canne Gratter. — *udere.*

Dumb Cane grows in low, wet places throughout tropical America. The English name refers to the irritating sap which is highly inflammatory to the tongue. In Dominica this species is particularly abundant in the ravines near the settlement of Bataka in the Carib Reserve. Two « varieties » are said to occur, one called [578] « seigin rouge ».

Sigin is said to be pounded by the Carib and placed as a [278] poison in the food of an enemy. As such it is claimed to « kill 757 four generations »! The leaves of sigin rouge are withered by heat and wrapped around dropsical, scarred, or varicose legs in order to « draw out the water », and in the same way are used as a local treatment for yaws.

Specimen citation: 3174.

[14] It has been shown that this is an anglicized form of « de Chine » which in turn probably derives from « taro or chou de Chine », the full name originally used in the Lesser Antilles for this introduced species. Other names, certain of them applied to the New World tanias (*Xanthosoma* spp.), also, are used throughout the Antilles. For instance in Martinique dasheen is often called « chou de Chine », while in Guadeloupe it has the name « madère », applied in Dominica and Martinique to one of its varieties.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Monstera pertusa (Linnaeus) de Vriese, Hort. Sparm. Bergens 40. 1839.

mîbi (generic for « bush-rope »).

A species found on several of the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica this plant grows as a scandent vine on trees in river valleys especially at lower elevations.

The aerial roots of this species can be peeled without or with very little scraping and since they absorb local vegetable dyes (especially « saffran » and « tan ») more readily than the roots of « hard » *mîbi* (*Anthurium palmatum*) the plant is known as « soft » *mîbi*. For this reason the roots of *Monstera* are preferred for small decorative baskets although they are less durable than roots of *Anthurium*. The large perforated leaves of this plant are used also by the Caribs as a poultice to relieve pain.

[285]

[278]

Specimen citation: 3006.

Philodendron oxycardium Schott, Syn. Aroid. 82. 1856.

Corde Molle.

This scandent arum ranges in the West Indies from Puerto Rico to St. Vincent; it is also recorded from Guatemala. The species is common in the forests of Dominica at lower (windward coast) and middle elevations.

Caribs use the woody climbing stems of corde molle as sturdy handles for certain types of baskets.

[285]

Specimen citation: 3262.

Xanthosoma spp.

Yautia. — Chou, Tanier, Tania [15]. — *uâko* (w), *tâia* (m) (the same word in Tupi). — *tâya* (m); *wâkî* (w).

Several species of this tropical American genus have been much cultivated in the West Indies and South America since pre-Columbian times. The tubers of *X. atrovirens* Koch & Bouché

[15] These are the most frequent names used in Dominica, but elsewhere in the West Indies the several species and varieties of *Xanthosoma* are known by various names (5) — yautia and malanga in the Spanish speaking islands; chou caraïbe (Martinique), malanga (Guadeloupe); and tanier, tanias, tayas, cocoes, or edoes in the British West Indies. Some of these names are applied also to the dasheen. Yautia is a Taino (Haitian) name for *Xanthosoma*; tanier is a corruption of the Carib *tâia*.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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*824 The tubers of X. Atrovirens Koch & Bouché [262] and *X. violaceum* Schott constitute one of the staple starchy foods of Dominica while the young leaves of *X. brasiliense* (Desr.) Engl. are one of the prime ingredients of the famed « calalu » soup, a popular Creole dish.

[252] The Caribs cultivate tanias both as a food and green. When prepared as a green the « heart » (the unopened leaves) is boiled and eaten. Other authors (7) (15) mention a red-ribbed leaf variety, [189 724] « chou poivré », whose juice the Caribs rubbed on themselves as a charm when going to war. Leaves of the red-ribbed variety, [278] known today as chou froidure (pronounced « chou fwedi »), are made into an infusion used against chills; and the same variety is an ingredient in another tea discussed under *Myrcia citrifolia*.

Specimen citation: 2466.

BROMELIACEAE. Pineapple Family.

Ananas comosus (Linnaeus) Merrill, Interpr. Rumph. Amb. 133. 1917.

Ananas sativus Schultes f. ex. R. & S. Syst. 7: 1283. 1830.

Ananas ananas Cockerell, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 19: 776. 1897.

Ananas, Pineapple. — *idiaua* (« prickly »); *kuráua* (fiber-yielding variety).

A native of Brazil, the pineapple has been widely cultivated for its fruits in the tropics and subtropics of both the New and the Old World. Strong white fibers, which are utilized for cloth in various parts of the world, are obtained from the leaves (22). The Barama River Caribs make an alcoholic drink from the grated pulp. First mention of the pineapple is by Peter Martyr who records its discovery by Columbus on Guadeloupe in 1493 (21).

[262 275 276] Several types are cultivated by the Caribs of Dominica. The fruit is eaten; a fermented beverage is made from the peeled skins steeped in water; while the fruit itself, as well as this drink, is considered to be good for urinary complaints. The small, [847] green, immature fruit or its juice is, on the other hand, well known to these aborigines as an abortive agent.

[283] La pite (Carib: *kuráua*[16]), an important cultivated fiber plant

[16] Dr. L. B. Smith has determined that la pite of Dominica is not a species of *Bromelia* as was at first thought but actually a species of *Ananas*, most

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

The acid fruit of this species is edible and refreshing but is apparently only known and used locally by Carib hunters.

Specimen citation: 3357.

Pitcairnia gracilis Mez in DeCandolle, Monogr. Phan. 9: 407. 1896.

Batard La Pite.

A Lesser Antillean species found in Dominica on rocky semi-wooded spots at lower to middle elevations.

The fine, fluffy, white scales which cover the lower surfaces of the grass-like leaves are mixed with honey and used by the Carib as a remedy for the common infant's mouth disease called « thrush ». The same mixture is employed at birth as a healing agent on the cut umbilical cord. The plant itself is carried when travelling as a good luck « chance ».

Specimen citation: 1240, 3054, 3496.

Pitcairnia spicata (Lamarck) Mez var. **sulphurea** (Andrews) Mez in DeCandolle, Monogr. Phan. 9: 393. 1896.

Pitcairnia sulphurea Andrews Bot. Repos. 4 (1802) pl. 249.

Batard La Pite.

A species of basaltic outcrops at the summits of mountain peaks of Dominica and St. Vincent.

The leaves of this species are also utilized by the Caribs in the manner discussed under *Pitcairnia gracilis*.

Specimen citation: 319, 1950.

LILIACEAE. Lily Family.

Smilax guianensis Vitman, Summ. Plant. 5: 422. 1791.

Smilax macrophylla Willdenow, Sp. Pl. ed. 4, 2: 786. 1806.

Bamboche.

A strong vine of the Lesser Antilles.

Caribs employ the withe-like stems in the making of snares, while an infusion of the roots in cold water is believed to be a cure for gonorrhoea.

Specimen citation: 3269.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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824 x

AMARYLLIDACEAE. AMARYLLIS FAMILY.

Furcraea tuberosa Aiton filius, Hort. Kew ed. 2, 2: 303. 1811
Langue Boeuf [17].

A large agave-like, succulent herb which is found in the West Indies from Hispaniola to Grenada. In Dominica it grows most commonly at lower elevations in thickets or on dry coastal cliffs.

The Caribs use the leaf fibers of langue boeuf which are [283] obtained by retting with running water for several days. After this softening bath the fibers are extracted by beating the leaves on a plank with a wooden mallet, and during the process water is used to wash away the vegetable matter. In addition the root [278] is emulsified to make a « tea » which is drunk for « echauffement » (gonorrhea).

Specimen citation: 3403.

Pancratium speciosum Linnaeus f. ex Salisbury, Act. Soc. Linn. Lond. 2: 73. t. 12. 1794.

Pancratium caribaeum Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I.(1864) 583, as to the Dominica plant.

Hymenocallis speciosa Salisbury in Trans. Hort. Soc. 1 (1812) 340.

Spider Lily, White Lily. — Ognon Dli, Ognon Gli (from the French: « ognon de lys »). — *kukúaka fleue* (« double »? « flower »).

The exact range of this Lesser Antillean species of Spider lily is uncertain but the plant grows wild in Dominica chiefly in moist soils at or near the mouths of streams.

Caribs express the juice of the large bulbs of ognon gli and [278] use the liquid as an emetic.

Specimen citation: 2729, 2951.

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[17] The « Langue Boeuf » of Breton (7) probably pertains to the genus, *Carludovica*.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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An acaulescent herb widely distributed in the West Indies and tropical South America. The plant is to be found in Dominica on open grassy slopes at lower elevations.

The tunicated bulbs are said to be eaten by the older generation presumably as we do those of onions. Also, a decoction made from the bulb is taken by women at the time of their menopause or to relieve painful or irregular menstruation.

Specimen citation: 3 (T), 3188.

Trimezia martinicensis (Jacquin) Herbert, Bot. Reg. 30. misc. 88. 1844.

Cipura martinicensis Kunth, Nov. Gen. & Sp. 1 (1816) 321. Coco Chat.

This little yellow flower is to be found on grassy slopes throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The corms of this species possess an acrid yellow juice. They are grated by the Carib and mixed with other unknown ingredients. This mixture is then kept by an individual on his person as a charm to ensure success if he gets into a fight.

Specimen citation: 3304.

MUSACEAE. Banana Family.

Heliconia bihai Linnaeus Mant. 2: 211. 1771.

Bihai bihai Griggs in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 31: 445. (1904). as to source of name only.

Wild Plantain. — Balisier. — *balíri*. (cf. *balúru*).

This species with bicolored bracts is probably to be found throughout the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it occurs, often in colonies, on wet open slopes or along streambanks at middle and higher elevations.

Balisier leaves are used by the Caribs to cover temporary shelters in the woods (ajoupas), as waterproof lining material between the inner and outer layer of certain basket types (larouman paniers) in areas where cachibou (*Calathea lutea*) is not available, and as a « paper » substitute to wrap up fish, game, etc. Leaves of balisier are also utilized to wrap up, *a*) fish for roasting

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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in fire, *b*) titiri (a tiny fish) for steaming in a closed pot, *c*) sweetened meal of manioc or maize for boiling in water to make a kind of pudding. The midribs of the leaves are often sun-dried, cut to equal lengths and bound together at their ends parallel to one another so as to form roll-up mats used to sleep on. The petioles are often cut to form temporary braces used in making baskets. The leaves as well as the sap of the stem are employed as an unguent for burns, inflammation, etc. Balisier leaf heart together with water obtained from the hole of a pois doux (*Inga*) tree is used in the local treatment of erysipilis. The watery sap of balisier, mixed with the juicy pulp of the genip (*Genipa americana*) and with the ashes of burnt panicles of roseau (*Gynerium sagittatum*), is used as an unguent applied to yaws (framboesia). A red dye is said to have been made from the blue fruits.

Specimen citation: 1086, 2630.

Heliconia caribaea Lamarck, Encycl. 1: 426. 1783.

Heliconia bihai sensu authors (24).

Wild Plantain. — Balisier. — *balíri* (cf. *balúru*).

The commonest of the wild plantains generally confused even in current botanical literature with the preceding (24), but widely distributed throughout all the wet tropical regions bordering on the Caribbean. In Dominica colonies may be found in habitats similar to those occupied by the preceding species.

H. caribaea is put to the same use by the Caribs as is *H. bihai*.

Specimen citation: 3416, 3417.

Musa paradisiaca Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1043. 1753.

Plantain. Banane. — *balúru*, *baldtana* (cf. Spanish platano).

Plantains originated in southeastern Asia but are cultivated in the tropics throughout the world. They are said to have been introduced into Hispaniola about 1500 and are recorded from Dominica in 1595 (21). Since the latter date they have grown to be a staple cultivated food in Dominica where they often persist after cultivation.

The Island Caribs formerly pounded and dried the fruits to form a sort of paste or concentrated food taken on voyages and consumed after mixing with water. Today plantains form one of

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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the chief native foodstuffs. They are usually boiled, rarely roasted, but in either case always in the green condition (unripe). The « popote » (i. e. the inflorescence bud) of this species or of the banana is crushed and its juice is applied as a cure for ulcers. Like those of the balisiers (*Heliconia* spp.) the leaves of both plantains and bananas are much used as wrapping material.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Musa paradisiaca Linnaeus subsp. **sapientum** (Linnaeus) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. 2: 892. 1891.
Banana. — Figue. — *bakúku*.

The distribution of the banana is identical with that of the plantain.
Bananas are hardly as important as plantains in the Caribs' diet, but they are an important commercial export crop in Dominica. A drink was formerly made from the fruit but today it is generally eaten ripe out of hand.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

ZINGIBERACEAE. Ginger Family.

Aframomum granum-paradisi (Hooker) K. Schumann in Engler, Pflanzenreich 20: 213. 1904.
Grains-of-Paradise Amomum. — Poivre Guinée.

This African plant was originally described from Sierra Leone. Various species of this fragrant-leaved genus have pungent seeds which, in the Middle Ages, were a popular substitute for pepper. Today they are still used medicinally and as a flavoring agent (22).

Caribs frequently cultivate poivre guinée near their dwellings for they utilize the seeds as a spice. The leaves, considered to be a charm, are rubbed on the body when bathing and are constituents of a ritual bath (described under *Ocimum micranthum*) for unlucky canoes. A similar bath is given to their hunting dogs. A tea is made from the leaves for stomach ache and the seeds are put into rum as a « chauffe » to excite dogs.

Specimen citation: 121 (T), 3204.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Alpinia speciosa (Wendland) K. Schumann, Fl. Kaiser-Wilhelmsl. 29. 1887.

Languas speciosa Small, Fl. Southeast. U. S. 307, 1375. (1913).

Shell Flower. — Lavandre.

[247] A plant of the East Indies, long cultivated for ornament in the West Indies and often persisting after cultivation. Lavandre has become naturalized in various parts of Dominica, particularly at lower elevations.

[278] A « tea » made by the Caribs from the leaves and flowers of this species is supposedly efficacious against indigestion or « wind in the stomach ». Further uses of this species as ingredients in [515] ritual baths are described under *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 23 (T), 3211.

Curcuma longa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2. 1753.

Turmeric. — Saffran.

A native of the East Indies, where it is grown for its tubers which form an ingredient of curry powders, saffran has been introduced into the West Indies and is generally cultivated by [386] the Dominica Indian as a dye plant.

The Caribs use the carrot-like tubers to give a yellow stain to weaving materials obtained from *mibi* (*Anthurium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*) and other lianas. Certain round baskets [285] made by the Indian women are often woven in two colors, yellow (from *Curcuma longa*) and mauve (from *Picramnia pentandra*).

Specimen citation: 8 (T), 3330.

Hedychium coronarium Koenig ex Retz. Obs. 3: 73. 1783.

Ginger Lily. — Gingembre Douleur, Canne Riviere.

This species, of southeastern Asia, has become naturalized in moist places on many of the West Indian islands.

[278] The Caribs of Dominica employ the leaves to make a « tea » used for fever, while the roots enter into the manufacture of a concoction which is a supposed cure for any internal pain. A chopped up decoction of the plant in water is also drunk as a « cure » for gonorrhea. For another use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 34B (T).

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respectively to the head of a coulibri (a local hummingbird) and to topitambours (*Calathea allouia*); to l'envers blanc which has white tubers about two feet long. The tubers of l'envers rouge are redskinned and thick but not more than nine or ten inches long while those of l'envers caraïbe are up to three feet long but thin with the peculiarity of sometimes coiling upon themselves at the end. The leaves of all these varieties, although similar in form, vary considerably in size (3-10 inches long, 1.5-5 inches broad), and in the presence or absence of red coloring on the petioles, sheaths, and bases.

L'envers blanc and l'envers rouge are the only varieties cultivated for the alimentary value of their starch, and of these the former is more common. Arrowroot starch is preferred locally instead of milk (supposed to give worms!) as a food for young children, and even breast-fed infants are given arrowroot as a supplementary food from their second or third day of life. [262] [334] [353]

The pounded tuber of any of the varieties, mixed with the black wax of the native stingless bee (*Melipona*), is applied to sores and infected wounds. This poultice was formerly used on wounds inflicted by poisoned arrows hence the plant's English name, arrowroot. [278]

Although all varieties of l'envers are supposedly « good » for various accidents and circumstances of man's life (in the magical sense) the one known as l'envers caraïbe or l'envers tête chien [20] is considered especially efficacious as a powerful Carib charm, and is mentioned in several of the Indians' legends. This plant is said to have been « given » to the old time Caribs by the « Maitre Tête Chien » (a mythical, anthropomorphic chief of all tête chien snakes), who taught the Caribs how to use it. The crushed tuber rubbed on the body when bathing or a little of the starch (obtained by washing the grated tuber and allowing it to settle) held in the mouth is said to confer on the user power over other people. 824x 789

Magical rites are connected both with its planting and with the digging of the plant, but as a charm it must not be observed,

[20] The variety takes its name from the local tête chien or boa (*Constrictor orophias*) because the tuber of the plant grows straight down into the ground for two or three feet and then often coils on itself in a manner reminiscent of the snake.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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tended, or dug by the women of the tribe. L'envers tête chien must be « paid »; consequently the modern Carib places a silver piece of money in the hole when planting it. When none of this plant is found growing wild the following supposed method of « planting » it is employed. The would-be « planter » goes to the woods and finds a tête chien snake. He severs the snake's head with one blow without the snake being aware of danger (« were it to hiss but once it would be useless to proceed »). A hole is then dug and the head is buried without touching it by hand or removing it from the spot where it fell. A month or so later this charm (l'envers tête chien) is found on the spot where the head was buried. Before removing the charm, one must « pay it » (the snake's spirit?) by burning a little powdered tobacco.

Specimen citation: 7 (T).

PIPERACEAE. Pepper Family.

Peperomia pellucida (Linnaeus) Humboldt, Bonpland, & Kunth, Nov. Gen. 1: 64. 1815.

Z'Herbe Couresse.

An insignificant herb widely distributed in the American tropics, also in Africa and the East Indies. In Dominica the species grows most frequently upon moist walls or in crannies of wet rocks. It is eaten locally as a potherb.

Z'Herbe couresse is pounded by the Caribs and is then used as a poultice to relieve sore throat.

Specimen citation: 394, 411, 412.

Piper spp.

Doctor Bush. Malbruk[21], Mal L'Estomac.

All local species of this genus (including common *P. aequale* Vahl and *P. dilatatum* L. C. Rich.) are known to the natives of Dominica as doctor bush.

Because the Caribs consider these plants to be charms, the leaves are employed to rub the body when bathing or as ingre-

[21] *Graffenrieda latifolia* Triana is also known as « malbruk » in Dominica.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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824x
dients in ritual baths. A ritual bath given to those suffering [789]
from colds utilizes as ingredients the leaves of species of this [755]
genus plus those of three other unidentified plants, pomme coolie,
baksa, and fougère rouge (the latter apparently a fern). Hunting [231]
dogs are similarly rubbed when bathed in order to make them
« good » at the chase. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 27 (T), 110 (T), 426, 3252, 3257.

Pothomorphe peltata (Linnaeus) Miquel, Comm. Phyt. 37. 1840. Monkey's Hand. — Mal Tête.

A large herb of the American tropics, found in Dominica in damp places at lower and middle elevations.

The large suborbicular leaves of mal tête are heated by the [278]
Caribs and applied to the head as a cure for headache.

Specimen citation: 144 (T), 427.

MORACEAE. Mulberry Family.

Cecropia peltata Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10 1286. 1759. Trumpet-Tree, Trumpet-Wood (8). — Bois Canon.

A species of the West Indies and northern South America, to be found generally in moist forests and ravines at middle elevations.

The Island Caribs often fashion the trunks of bois canon into [501]
light catamarans, known locally as « piperie ». The pounded [278]
« heart » (the unopened leaves in their stipular sheaths), mixed
with salt, is applied as a poultice to wounds and sores.

Specimen citation: 125 (T), 632, 3168, 3663.

Ficus spp.
Figuier. — *kudsi*.

A large tropical genus of trees including the widely cultivated fig. At least half a dozen species, certain of them large trees, occur in Dominica.

The larger spreading species of figuier (including *F. urbaniana* [776]
Warb.) are considered by the Caribs to be the homes of the

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824
[772] « tree-spirit » and for this reason — and as with *Ceiba pentandra* and *Mammea americana* L. — these trees are never felled or otherwise disturbed for fear of making the spirit angry. Leaves of
[755] figuier are one of many ingredients (see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*) in a ritual bath given for any sickness caused by piai.

Specimen citation: 1567, 3268, 3271 (all representing *Ficus urbaniana*).

LORANTHACEAE. Mistletoe Family.

Psittacanthus martinicensis Eichler in Martius, Fl. Bras. 5 (2): 26. 1868.

Capitaine Bois, Maître Bois, Roi Bois.

A hemiparasite of Martinique and Dominica. In Dominica the species frequently parasitises mango trees. The local names also are applied to other loranthaceous species.

Caribs utilise the leaves of roi bois as one of the many ingre-
[755] dients (for others see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*) of a ritual bath given as a cure of any sickness caused by piai.

Specimen citation: 651.

POLYGONACEAE. Buckwheat Family.

Coccoloba ascendens Duss ex Lindau, Monogr. Cocc., Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 13: 156. 1890.

Liane Barril, Cercle Barril.

A liana found on several of the Caribbee islands and also recorded from Brazil.

According to Duss (14) an infusion of the root is used in the
● [278] French Antilles as a depurative for venereal diseases. Fishermen
[277] in those islands also use the flexible stems in the making of fish
[285] pots and baskets.

The Caribs of Dominica employ the sturdy stems for edging various types of baskets.

Specimen citation: 3334.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 K

Coccoloba uvifera (Linnaeus) Jacquin, Enum. 19. 1760.
Sea Grape. — Raisin Bord-de-mer. — *báibai* (m), *ulïï* (w).

The sea grape is a widespread littoral species of the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The hard timber has various uses but at one time was used by the Caribs for war clubs, and the like. From the scraped bark is obtained a gum which dries hard and which was formerly employed as a varnish on painted and split stems of larouman (*Ischnosiphon arouma*). The fruits are eaten and in the past were crushed in water to make a beverage. [411] [314] [272]

Specimen citation: 1605, 3316.

CHENOPODIACEAE. Goosefoot Family.

Chenopodium ambrosioides Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 219. 1753.
Chenopodium anthelminticum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 220. 1753.
Wormseed. — Semen Contra.

Wormseed is a strong-scented annual plant widely distributed in the temperate and tropical regions of both the Old and New World.

A «tea» made from its leaves is drunk by the Carib as a beverage or is used to deworm children. The leaves are also one constituent of a ritual bath given to the mother after childbirth (see *Ocimum micranthum*). [278] [846]

Specimen citation: 3364.

AMARANTHACEAE. Amaranth Family.

Amaranthus spp.
Epinard, L'Epinard.

Weedy species of this genus are common throughout the world, and many can be employed as potherbs. At least two species, *Amaranthus viridis* L. and *Amaranthus spinosus* L., are so used in Dominica (31).

The Carib Indians cook and eat these plants as green vegetables. [262]

Specimen citation: no herbarium specimens collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

PHYTOLACCACEAE. Pokeweed Family.

X 824 **Petiveria alliacea** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 342. 1753.

Kudjuruk. — *émerudiwma, lemáru.*

A widespread weedy plant found in Florida, the West Indies, and continental tropical America. Although common in Dominica especially at lower elevations, this species is cultivated by the Caribs chiefly near their houses.

[788] The Indians consider kudjuruk to be both a charm and a medicine. The plant is used, together with honteuse (*Mimosa pudica*) and sou marqué (*Cassia bicapsularis*) as an ingredient in [751] a ritual bath taken at the time of the new moon. It is also rubbed on the body as a protection against evil spells. Prepared as « tea » [278 844] it is considered an antidote to poisoning, as well as an aid to women in parturition. For further uses of kudjuruk in ritual baths see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 380 (T), 3194.

Phytolacca rivinoides Kunth & Bouché, Ind. Sem. Hort. Berol. 15. 1848.

Pokeweed. — Z'Oreilles Mulâtre. — *tarîkai* (« her/its »).

This pokeweed is to be found in continental tropical America as well as throughout the West Indies. In Dominica it is a familiar species in woodlands, clearings, and abandoned gardens chiefly at middle elevations.

[262 278] The young leaves are often boiled by the Carib as an edible green, which is also said to be « good » for dropsy.

Specimen citation: 26 (T), 1160.

Rivina humilis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 121. 1753.

Rivina laevis Linnaeus, Mant. 1 41. (1767).

Demoiselle.

An herb of tropical America, frequent on waste land and fields in Dominica.

[278] Caribs make a medicinal « tea » from demoiselle.

Specimen citation: 3376.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

PORTULACACEAE. Purslane Family. 824x

Portulaca oleracea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 445. 1753.
Purslane. — Coupié, Pourpier.

A cosmopolitan weed of gardens and waste lands throughout the temperate and tropical regions of the world.

The boiled leaves of coupié are eaten by the Caribs (and the Creoles) as a green vegetable, but they are also employed as a plaster or poultice on the loins in order to ease backache or painful menstruation. For the latter purpose the leaves are often mixed with kudjuruk (*Petiveria alliacea*). [262 278 841]

Specimen citation: 107 (T).

ANNONACEAE. Custard-apple Family.

Annona muricata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 536. 1753.
Soursop. — Corossol. — **valépoma** (cf. Taino **wanábana**).

A familiar tree of the West Indies and grown throughout the tropics for its fruit which is used as a table fruit or more often to make delicious sorbetes or to flavor ice cream.

Cultivated specimens supply the Caribs with a source of a refreshing fruit juice which is used as an unfermented drink. A fermented drink formerly was prepared from chewed up fruits. The fruit is believed to induce lactation in women if, 1) eaten alone; 2) if used locally as a poultice; or 3) if used as one ingredient in a tea which also includes a momben leaf (*Spondias mombin*), two leaves of 'ti baume (*Hyptis atrorubens*), three leaves of truis quarts (*Passiflora* sp.) and a fruit of kurupum (*Myrcia citrifolia*). A painful retroverted uterus (called « mal de mère ») is treated with a tea made from three leaves of corossol, two leaves of bois canave (*Cornutia pyramidata*), and one sprig of Panis (*Anethum graveolens*). A tea supposed to cure gonorrhea has included in its preparation a piece of the root of the corossol (see *Solanum torvum*); while a ritual tea used against diarrhea also employs leaves of corossol (see *Ocimum micranthum*). The fruit must not be eaten by those going fishing as it would prevent [272 273] [853] 278 824x [226]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

fish from biting by causing their mouths to become soft. Corossol leaves are also boiled alone to produce a tea drunk by those with colds and fever, or by women in labour (parturition); the leaves are also used for bathing (adults or children).

Specimen citation: 398.

Annona reticulata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Custard Apple, Bullock's Heart. — Cachima, Cachima Coeur de Boeuf. — **alakálisa** (m), **karíma**.

This is another common West Indian species, varieties of which produce edible fruits.

The bark is employed by the Caribs to bandage sprains and dislocations; when so used it is kept moist with salt water. A tea is brewed from cachima leaves, together with the leaves of the pigeon pea [*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp.], and this is drunk by individuals suffering from fever.

Specimen citation: 3358.

Annona squamosa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Sweetsop, Sugar Apple. — Pomme Canelle. — **kalíkiri**.

Like the preceding species this small West Indian tree is widely cultivated for its edible fruit.

The leaves are made into a «tea», drunk as a supposed cure for a painful spleen (a common complaint among Caribs).

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Guatteria caribaea Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 240. 1905.

Guatteria cerapoo Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 7, 1859, non Dunal.

Cananga caribaea Britton in Br. & Wils. Bot. P. R. (Sci. Surv. Puerto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 311. 1924.

Mahe (often spelled mahoi, mahoe, or mahaut) Noir, Bois Violon.

A medium-sized forest tree found in Puerto Rico and recorded in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Grenada.

Bois violon possesses a good wood often made by the Caribs into boards. Young specimens of this species are also fashioned into masts for dugouts. The strong bark furnishes a rope fiber from which are constructed the halyards, etc., for sails. Such

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

material is used also in calking canoes [32]. By some Indians mabo noir fiber is considered superior to that of mabo doux (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*); by others it is considered inferior.

Specimen citation: 3256.

Oxandra laurifolia (Swartz) A. Richard [33] in Sagra, Fl. Cub. 20. 1845.

Bois Pian.

A forest tree recorded in the Antilles from Cuba to Dominica.

The dense, fine-grained, tough, yellow wood is said to equal boxwood, and is imported into England under the name «lancewood spars» (18).

Bois Pian wood has a strong, pharmaceutical odor when cut, and its sap is said by some to have been used by the Caribs in the treatment of yaws («pians»). However, the name may allude to the characteristic yaw-like markings found on the trunk.

Specimen citation: 28 (T), 129 (T).

LAURACEAE. LAUREL FAMILY.

Ocotea sp. [34]

Laurier de rose. — *kulévako*.

In Dominica laurier de rose occurs on forested slopes from lower to middle elevations, but due to its general demand for construction purposes it has become rare.

The aromatic, strong, durable timber of this species formerly was much used by the Caribs for fashioning the boards on which they slept in their *wacina*, etc.

Specimen citation: 102 (T).

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[32] When so employed it is mixed with gomme (gum elemi, *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

[33] A provisional identification, based only on sterile material.

[34] The available herbarium material of laurier de rose includes only staminate flowers making it difficult to determine the species with any certainty but the specimen suggests either *O. dominicana* Meisn. or *O. staminea* Mez. The species *Phoebe elongata* (Vahl) Nees has also been tentatively identified as laurier de rose.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 A shrub native to the tropics of America but naturalized in the Old World, and found in Dominica on hillsides and waste ground at lower elevations.

[278] According to MACFADYEN quoted in (18) the juice of the leaves and buds of this plant are employed in the form of an infusion or bath for the cure of ringworm and other skin diseases. The pulped leaves and flowers are also used in Jamaica as poultices for the treatment of sores.

The Caribs bathe themselves with the juice of crushed decay leaves to help eradicate skin diseases.

Specimen citation: 3400.

Cassia bicapsularis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 376. 1753.

Adipera bicapsularis Britton & Rose in Br. & Wils. Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 370. 1924.

Sou Marqué.

A shrub of the West Indies and continental tropical America.

[755 751] The Caribs sometimes cultivate sou marqué. It is one of the constituents (with *Mimosa pudica* and *Petiveria alliacea*) of a ritual bath taken at the time of a new moon. This bath is considered to be a protection against evil spells. For other uses of sou marqué see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 143 (T).

Cassia hirsuta Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 378. 1753.

Ditremexa hirsuta Britton & Rose in Br. & Wils. Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 372. 1924.

Z'Herbes Puantes (« Male »). — *kulábule, nhákere háko* (w) (« ants' hammock »).

A widespread herbaceous plant of tropical America.

Both this species and the next are called by the Carib z'herbes puantes; however, a distinction is made in that *C. hirsuta* is considered to be the « male » plant and *C. occidentalis* the « female ». *C. hirsuta* is considered to be the better or « stronger » of the two.

[272 278 843] An infusion of the ground seeds of either z'herbes puantes is employed as a febrifuge and as a coffee substitute. The latter is preferred (to coffee) by pregnant women.

Specimen citation: 122 (T).

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

Cassia occidentalis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 377. 1753.

Ditremexa occidentalis Britton & Rose in Br. & Wils. Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5) 377. (1924). Coffee Senna, Jumbie Coffee, Wild Coffee, Negro Coffee, Stinking Weed. — Z'Herbes Puantes («Female»). — ***kuldbule.***

This species was first collected in Jamaica but it is widely distributed in the tropics and subtropics and in the warm temperate portions of the United States.

The seeds of ***Cassia occidentalis*** have been used as a coffee substitute in many regions, and the plant itself is employed in domestic medicine. An infusion of the leaves has been employed in West Africa in the treatment of yellow fever while an ointment derived from the plant has also been used for cutaneous diseases.

Seeds of the «female» z'herbes puantes are utilized by the Island Carib as a coffee substitute (quite unnecessary in a country where coffee is grown). A tea made from the leaves is considered a «cure-all» for colds, fever, for washing cuts, and for pregnant women. «Teas» are also made from the roots and flowers, the former being used for colds, the latter for «cough». [272] [278] 843]

Specimen citation: 123 (T), 3187.

Desmodium axillare (Swartz) DeCandolle Prod. 2: 333. 1825. var. **axillare.**

Meibomia axillaris O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. 1: 195. 1891.

Tick Trefoil. — Cacoyer.

A creeping herbaceous species of tropical America.

Caribs chop up a whole plant of cacoyer, place it in water and then drink the decoction as a «cure» for gonorrhea. [278]

Specimen citation: 3384.

Erythrina corallodendron Linnaeus var. **bicolor** Krukoff, Brittonia 3: 275. 1939.

Coral Tree. — Bois Immortel, Immortel.

This variety of ***E. corallodendron*** is limited to the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it is to be found at lower and middle elevations.

The Creoles often use the trees as living and permanent («immortal») boundary or fence posts. [417]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 A tea is made from the leaves [26] by the Island Caribs.
[272] Specimen citation: 2054.

Hymenaea courbaril Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1192. 1753.
Courbaril, West Indian Locust. — Coubari. — *kaúrubali*.

A tree known throughout the West Indies as well as in continental tropical America. The species occurs in Dominica at lower and middle elevations.

Courbaril possesses a tough heavy timber much utilized for carpentry work and furniture (8), while from the stems and twigs exudes a hard resin collected in Brazil and marketed under the name of Demerara, or Para copal (22).

[262] The coarse pods of coubaril contains an edible pulp which is
[272] much eaten by Carib children. Formerly it was stirred up in water to make a refreshing and, some say, nutritive beverage.
[313] The heavy timber is difficult to work, and because it does not resist exposure to weather, it is not employed by the Carib.

Specimen citation: 3222.

Inga laurina (Swartz) Willdenow, Sp. Pl. 4: 1018. 1806.
Pois Doux.

A medium-sized tree common on moist sites from Puerto Rico to Grenada at lower to middle elevations.

Within its range the pois doux is a favorite shade tree for
[351] coffee and in Dominica it is much used for this purpose as well as to shade cacao.

[278] A medicinal tea is prepared by the Caribs from a mixture of the bark of the pois doux and maho piment (*Daphnopsis caribaea*). Water taken from a hole (presumably a hole caused by trunk decay) in a pois doux tree, when mixed with leaf heart of balisier (*Heliconia*), is utilized as a local treatment of erysipilis.

Specimen citation: 611, 612.

Lonchocarpus spp.
Savonette [27]. — *inéku* (see also *Hibiscus esculentus*).

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[26] For a further use see quina (*Exostemma sanctae-luciae*).

[27] Species of *Pithecellobium* and *Sapindus* also are known by this patois name.

λ [i.e., the corral tree. -Am.]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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The kidney bean was known and grown by the Island Caribs under its aboriginal name. Although still grown today Caribs believe that the species must not be handled by hunter or fisherman (as this would spoil his catch), nor can plants be given to domestic animals (e. g. pigs) as this would cause them to become vicious.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Pithecellobium jupunba (Willdenow) Urban, Symb. Ant. 2: 257. 1900.

Pithecellobium trapezifolium Bentham, Hook. Journ. Bot. 2: 142. 1840.

Pithecellobium micradenium Bentham, Hook. Lond. Journ. 3: 217. 1844.

Bois Cicerou, (Bois) Pipiri, Bois Savonette [28]. — *alukálua, narukálua* (« white-flecked »?).

A common tree of moist forests at middle elevations in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad, and in northern South America from Colombia to Brazil.

Caribs utilize the wood of bois cicerou for boards. A decoction of the bark is drunk for dysentery while pounded bits of bark are sometimes employed as a substitute fish poison. When rubbed in water the leaflets emit a lather which is used as a soap.

Specimen citation: 3137, 3412.

SIMAROUBACEAE. Quassia Family.

Picramnia pentandra Swartz, Fl. Ind. Occ. 220. 1797.

Picramnia antidesmoides Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 141. 1859. Bitter-Bush (8). — Tan, Bois Tan [29].

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[28] The name bois savonette is seldom used on the island for *Pithecellobium*, and in the Carib Reserve by only a few of the Indians. Species of *Lonchocarpus* or *Sapindus* more frequently go under this appelation. *Pithecellobium* has probably received this name through transfer since the genus is the source of a fish poison, used as a substitute for that obtained from species of *Lonchocarpus*.

[29] Not to be confused with another tree also called bois tan (*Byrsonima spicata*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

This small shrubby tree is found in southern Florida, the Bahamas, as well as throughout the West Indian islands.

The leaves of tan, when moistened and rubbed on an article to be colored, yield a mauve dye. This dye is used in coloring the roots of the lianas called *mîbi* (*Anthurium palmatum* or *Monstera pertusa*), employed in the manufacture of the spiral baskets of the Carib women.

Specimen citation: 11 (T), 16 (T), 3191.

Picrasma antillana (Eggers) Urban, Symb. Ant. 5: 378. 1908.
Aeschrion antillana Small, North Am. Flora 25: 233. 1911.
Bitter Ash (8). — Simaruba [30].

Bitter Ash is a large forest tree of the Lesser Antilles.

The bark, sap, and wood contain a very bitter principle which is considered by the Carib to be of medicinal value. Chips of the wood are soaked in water which is then drunk for loss of appetite; and the sap (mixed with scrapings from the bottom of the shell of the conch called *lambi*), expressed from the bark, is applied externally as a cure for yaws (framboesia).

Specimen citation: 103 (T).

Simarouba amara Aublet, Pl. Guian. 2: 859. 1775.
Bois Blanc, Montagne. — *simáruba*.

A large tree known from the West Indies, Guiana, and Brazil.

Bois blanc is a familiar tree of Dominica's moist middle elevation forests where it is considered an important timber species. Because it is a host to insects injurious to citrus, bois blanc is often eliminated from the vicinity of the orchards. The wood is most frequently sawn into boards or converted into charcoal but it may be utilized for all kinds of timber requirements.

The Island Caribs employ bois blanc for all these purposes.

Specimen citation: 1195, 1652.

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[30] This Creole name should not be confused with the Carib name *simaruba* which is applied by the Indians to the species which follows.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^x

or plantain straw (*Musa*), it is used to calk canoes. When burnt [396] the gum produces a fine black soot, called by the Caribs *kuina*, which was formerly mixed with oil to form a black paint for [386 302] coloring strands of larouman (*Ischnosiphon arouma*) or for drawing decorative lines on the face or body. The gum serves as a masticatory said to allay shortness of breath, and is also applied to [278] an aching or hollow tooth.

Present day Carib craftsmen fashion their dugout canoes from 396 the straight trunks of the gommier [31]. A selected tree is felled, 824^x hollowed and shaped with axe and adze, and then opened — a widening process affected by applying weights (usually stones) within and gentle heat from low fires built along both sides of the trunk. Planks, usually hewn from gommier, are then added to the gunwales thus raising the sides. Cassava troughs and wooden [412] kitchen mortars are constructed from the trunks of smaller gommier trees.

Specimen citation: 653, 2969.

MELIACEAE. Mahogany Family.

824^x

Carapa guianensis Aublet, Pl. Guian. 2. Suppl. 32. 1775. Acajou. — Bois Carapat, Carapate (from the Carib word, *karapa*, meaning « oil »). — *kuáho*.

A large tree reported in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad and also native to tropical South America. According to Williams and Cheesman (67) the reddish wood is suitable for general construction purposes and the oil from the seeds is useful

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[31] In the time of Breton and Labat such dugouts were sometimes constructed from a tree known as red cedar (acajou rouge). Breton (7) writes: « The French call it acajou rouge... shingles are made of it to cover the houses... the savages make their canoes of it, and joiners what they please. Moreover it smells very good; its seed might well be used to make oil ». Unfortunately at least two species in Dominica are known today as acajou, and each possesses a fragrant wood. Only one of these, *Cedrela odorata* L., goes under the Creole name of acajou rouge. Although the characteristics of acajou rouge fulfill somewhat Father Breton's description, the other acajou, *Carapa guianensis*, is the only tree known to the Caribs of the Reserve under this name. Furthermore, the seeds of *Carapa guianensis* were formerly utilized by Caribs in making carapa oil; the samara-like ones of *Cedrela* scarcely fulfill Breton's description. [314]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Timber from young specimens is used by the Caribs for making masts for dugout canoes, while the buttresses (« wings ») of old trunks are employed for fashioning paddles. The fruit is edible and is frequently used by Indian hunters.

Specimen citation: 25 (T), 1322.

EUPHORBIACEAE. Spurge Family.

Amanoa caribaea Krug & Urban, Notizbl. Berl. Bot. Gard. 1 (10): 326. 1897.

Carapite [33].

This large tree is apparently limited to the mountain rain-forests of Guadeloupe and Dominica.

The purplish black wood of carapite is filled with white flecks or deposits, and is so exceedingly hard and heavy that it lasts well in the ground or when exposed to moisture. The Caribs appreciate its durability, and consequently often utilize it for housepiles, etc.

Specimen citation: 1326, 1889.

Euphorbia hypericifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 454. 1753.

Chamaesyce hypericifolia Millspaugh, Field Mus. Bot. 2: 302. 1909.

Mal Nommé, Mal Dormi. — *ákuliárani* (« eye medicine »), *aláuali áku liã*.

A common annual weed found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

An infusion made by the Caribs from this plant is taken to lessen uterine pains; the same type of infusion or the expressed juice is used in sore eyes or to cure a sty in the eye, etc.

Specimen citation: 563, 564, 3039.

Hippomane mancinella Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1191. 1753.

Manchineel, Majini (from the Spanish: manzanilla, « little apple »). — *balaúbukuru* (« sea-venom »).

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[33] Not to be confused with (bois) carapate (*Carapa guianensis*) or carapate (*Ricinis communis*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 X
278
411

Manchineel is a common, coastal, evergreen tree of the West Indies and Caribbean area.

Caribs were the only Antillean Indians versed in the use of poisoned arrows which they formerly daubed in the caustic milky sap of the manchineel. This practice was first noted on Guadeloupe by the men of Columbus' party. BRETON (7) later described the process, « ... they (the Caribs) gave the tree a stroke with an ax and dipped their arrow-points into its milk-like sap. » GOWER (19) states that these Indians also used the fruit of the « manzanillo » as a fish poison. This may be true but possibly that writer is confusing the fruits of the manchineel with those of babarra (*Diospyros ebenaster*), a potent and well-known fish poison of the Caribs.

[226]

Specimen citation : 2701.

Jatropha spp.

824 X
278

Physic-Nut. — Medecinier.

Two local species of this common coastal genus of the West Indies are known to the Island Caribs. Varieties of *J. gossypifolia* L. with purplish-red flowers are called medecinier blanc and medecinier noir ; *J. curcas* L. is known simply as medecinier. The capsules of both species possess seeds which are frequently used medicinally (8).

Caribs employ the seeds of medecinier either as a purgative or as an emetic depending upon the quantity given. A special purgative tea, given on the third day after parturition, is brewed from a mixture of the leaves of medecinier noir, leaves of balie doux (*Scoparia dulcis*), leaves of momben (*Spondias mombin*), sprigs of verveine (*Stachytarpheta* spp.), and ricinus oil (*Ricinus communis*). The leaves of medecinier are also used when boiled to make a tea given as a cure for general sickness.

[846]

Specimen citation : 131 (T), 1611, 3207, 3208.

824 X

Manihot esculenta Crantz, Inst. Rei Herb. 1 : 167. 1766.

Manihot utilissima Pohl, Plant. Bras. Ic. Descr. 1 : 32. t. 24. 1827.

Manihot manihot Cockerell, Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. 19 : 95. 1892.

Tapioca Plant, Cassava. — Manioc (Amer), Manioc Doux, Cama-

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

nioc. — *kiére* (m), *kāī* (w) – Bitter Manioc. *iúbue* (m), *kamániă*, *kumánana* – Sweet Manioc.

Manioc is one of the most important root crops of the American tropics, and has been long cultivated by the lowland Indians of this region. It is native to South America, probably Brazil (21), but has been introduced into the tropical and sub-tropical regions throughout the world. The first mention of cassava is by Peter MARTYR [34], who recorded it from both the American continent and the West Indies to which islands it had probably been carried by the Arawaks and Caribs.

Manioc varieties may be divided into two groups — bitter manioc (manioc amer) and sweet manioc (including manioc doux and camanioc). The bitter varieties contain much greater quantities of poisonous prussic acid, and consequently the sweet forms are treated by some as a separate species or variety.

Many types of manioc amer are cultivated by the Caribs (e. g. : « noir », « blanc », « violet », « bleu », « beurre », « cent-libres », etc.) while only one type each of manioc doux and camanioc are known by them. Red-stalked manioc doux is non-poisonous and may be used as a vegetable either boiled or roasted. It has a better taste then camanioc which, although less poisonous than manioc amer, must be used with caution as a vegetable.

Bitter manioc, in addition to its uses as prepared food, may be grated and employed (without the removal of the prussic acid) in the form of a poultice for sores and infected wounds.

The roots of bitter manioc are scraped, washed, and grated into a « kunu » or cassava trough (*batáia*), and then are squeezed either by wringing in cloths or in the Carib stocking-like basketry contraption known in patois as couleuvre [*rukúma* (w), *mátapi* (m)]. The resulting juice with its prussic acid [35] is collected in a receptacle below. The mouchasse or cassava-starch [*tibúkulu* (m),

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[34] Manioc was known to most early historians as *yuca*, a name still used in many parts of tropical America.

[35] Into this leached acid Caribs are said to have formerly dipped their arrows in order to poison them, but it is difficult to see how plain dilute manioc-water could have imparted any real poison. This claim seems the more improbable when one realizes that the small indigenous mammals of Dominica suffer no ill effects when fed raw manioc.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^x
252

ókoho (w)] settles to the bottom of this poisonous liquid (« manioc water »). Today manioc water is usually thrown away but its poisonous principle may be removed by boiling. If this is done the manioc water is reduced to a thick, brown, gravy-like substance (*siúti*) which forms the basis, of the well-known « cassareep » (*tumáli*) sauce.

At this stage the grated, squeezed manioc may be mixed with spices and sugar and boiled in little leaf-packets to form a sort of pudding which goes by the name of canki (Creole) or *káiti* (Carib?). Usually, however, grated manioc is made into farine or cassave by baking on a large griddle known as a platine [*butáli* (m), *búrolet* (w)]. In farine making grated manioc is kept from coagulating by constant stirring with a crude wooden paddle, or palette, and this action causes the formation of a coarse flour (farine), to which the mouchasse (starch) may or may not be added. In cassave making grated manioc is patted into round flat cakes (cassavas) which average 9-15 inches in diameter and ¼–½ inches in thickness.

824^x
273

Until recently a beer (*uéku*) was prepared from specially thick, baked, and slightly burnt cassavas. To make the beer, cassava cakes were sweetened and then chewed by the women. The resultant quid was then spat into a trough to which boiled manioc water, broken-up cassavas (and sometimes pounded, boiled sweet potatoes), and some water were added. Fermentation was completed in the course of two or three days and the fermented mixture, known as *sákuti* (meaning « chewed ») was then strained through a sifter or a specially constructed conical basket, more water being added in the process.

Specimen citation: 148 (T), 149 (T), 150 (T).

824^x

Phyllanthus spp.

Graines En Bas Feuilles, Parasol 'Goutis [36].

[278
847]

Several weedy species of this genus occur in Dominica.

The Island Carib makes a tea from the whole plant and uses it as an abortive agent.

Specimen citation: 142 (T), 155 (T), 572, 574, 575, 576.

[36] *Selaginella flabellata* (L.) Spring, with a growth form similar to these weedy species of *Phyllanthus*, is also called parasol 'goutis in Dominica.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

1824 **Richeria grandis** Vahl, Eclog. 1: 30. 1796.

Bois Bandé.

This large tree, common in the montane rain-forests of Dominica, ranges from Montserrat to Trinidad.

[314 832 224] The timber of bois bandé is widely used by the Caribs for boards, while a decoction of the bark is reputed to be an aphrodisiac. Hunters are careful not to cut or slash at this particular species when setting out for the chase for they believe any injury to such trees would cause their hunting to be unsuccessful.

Specimen citation: 567, 1318, 1895.

Ricinus communis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1007. 1753.

Castor-Bean. — Carapate (from the Carib word, *karapa*, meaning « oil »). — *lamáho* (w), *sulúanũ* (m).

A native of the Old World, much cultivated and spontaneous in the West Indies and continental tropical and subtropical America.

The Castor Bean is planted in every Carib dooryard and is known as carapate (the name more correctly applied to *Carapa guianensis*). Ricinus oil is now substituted for the oil of *Carapa guianensis* for hair dressing. [302] Formerly castor oil was possibly mixed (in place of the oil of *Carapa*) with bíset pigment (*Bixa orellana*) to form body paint. The leaves of the Castor Bean are heated and used both as a compress for internal pains and for massaging the spleen. [278 752 846] A special blended purgative tea given after parturition uses castor oil as an ingredient (see *Jatropha* spp.); while another tea, a « cure » for gonorrhea, includes the seeds of this plant (see *Solanum torvum*).

Specimen citation: 570.

Sapium caribaeum Urban, Symb. Ant. 3: 308. 1902.

La Glu, Lagli. — *ulélekene*.

This tree is a native of the higher volcanic islands of the Lesser Antilles, and is recorded from Guadeloupe to St. Vincent. In Dominica it occurs chiefly at middle elevations although on the wetter windward side it approaches the coast.

[223] The white sap of this species makes the best bird-lime utilized by the Carib. The lime is obtained by making incisions on the

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

trunk of the tree. Bird-limes are also obtained from other species including the immigrant breadfruit [*Artocarpus altilis* (Park.) Fosb.], whose white sap must be mixed with oil; and l'arali (*Clusia plukenetii*) whose white sticky sap is definitely inferior as far as this use is concerned. Sticks (about 1 ½ feet long) for fire-drills were formerly cut from the wood of la glu (also from *Bixa orellana*). According to BRETON (7) sparks, used to ignite dried moss or rotten wood, were produced by twirling one stick in a notch cut in the other. The Hercules beetle (*Dinastes* sp.) is found in rotting trunks of la glu. These huge insects, called *anrehire*, are caught either as a curiosity or for sale to tourists.

Specimen citation: 3362.

ANACARDIACEAE. CASHEW FAMILY.

Anacardium occidentale Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 383. 1753.

Cashew. Pomme Noix. — *úlui, álui, úrui.*

The cashew is a characteristic spreading tree of the West Indies and continental tropical America. It is often cultivated for its fruit, but occurs in a natural state in Dominica at lower elevations.

The swollen receptacle of the fruit is edible and refreshing, and is the source of a juice formerly fermented by the Caribs to make a drink. The kernel or nut is eaten after being roasted. From the leathery fruit-coat a caustic and poisonous oil is obtained which is used either as a cure for dartres, or as a stain or marking ink.

Specimen citation: 660, 3344.

Spondias mombin Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 371. 1753.

Spondias lutea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. ed. 2. 613. 1762.

Hog Plum. — Monben, Mombin. — *úbu, húbu, múbĕ.*

A tree of tropical America frequent in Dominica at lower elevations. The yellow, pleasantly acid fruits of this species are the «myrobalans» of the Columbian voyages. In Jamaica and elsewhere the hog plum is used in the construction of live fences while the strong but light wood is used as a cork substitute (18).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Caribs eat the fruits of the monben and formerly used them to prepare a fermented drink. The fruits are also believed to induce lactation but it is uncertain how they are employed. Inflamed or swollen joints are claimed to be cured by exposing them to the fumes of the burning kernels of monben fruits. A tea used to treat sore throat is made from either the leaves or seeds. Momben leaves are one ingredient in a special purging tea given after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.), as well as in another tea used to induce lactation in women (see *Annona muricata*).

SAPINDACEAE. Soapberry Family.

Cardiospermum halicacabum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 366. 1753.
Batard Persil.

An herbaceous climbing vine growing in tropical regions throughout the world.

The leaves of batard persil are crushed in water by the Caribs to make what is said to be a refreshing and cooling drink.

Specimen citation: 3289.

Sapindus saponaria Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 367. 1753.
Sapindus inaequalis DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 608. 1824.
Soapberry, Soap Tree. — Bois Savonette[37]. — *túlisi* (m), *túluru* (w).

A tree of lower elevations found in the West Indies and in continental tropical America.

The fruits of the soapberry may be used for washing purposes, and in various parts of the Antilles the seeds are strung to make necklaces.

Dominica's Caribs employ the bark («scales») of *Sapindus saponaria* for soap while a concentrated decoction of the bark is reputed to stop dysentery.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

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[37] Not to be confused with two other Dominica trees, *Lonchocarpus* sp., and *Pithecellobium jupunba*, also called bois savonette.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

wound around the left wrist and forefinger. The spindle was set rotating by rolling its lower end (below the whorl) sharply down the thigh with the right hand. The thread thus spun was rolled onto the spindle-shank (above the guard) and the process recommenced. Cotton thread thus spun was used for weaving hammocks [39], head and leg bands [40], and more recently for mending clothes. Today cotton fiber is used principally for stuffing pillows and mattresses, and for calking canoes. However, a ritual bath, given to the mother after childbirth, utilized coton noir; it is discussed under *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 114 (T), 115 (T), 2541.

Hibiscus esculentus Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 696. 1753.
Abelmoschus esculentus Moench, Meth. 617. 1794.

Okra. — Gombo. — *inéku* (see also *Lonchocarpus* spp.).

A native of the Old World tropics, this species is widely cultivated. It was first recorded from the West Indies in 1750 (21). and is a familiar garden vegetable in Dominica.

Okra is either eaten as a vegetable or is used as an ingredient in a local soup known as « calalou ». However, a Carib hunter must not put any gombo in the pot with the game he cooks or his dogs and gun would lose their power of taking any more game of that sort. The leaves are used as shampoo in washing the hair to promote growth. A superstition also exists that eaten gombo tops will cause one to meet the persons who have been speaking ill of one.

Specimen citation: 136 (T).

Hibiscus tiliaceus Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 694. 1753.
Hibiscus elatus Swartz, Prodr. 102. 1788.
Pariti tiliaceum St. Hilaire, Fl. Bras. Merid. 1: 256. 1827.

Mahoe. — Maho (also spelled mahot, or mahaut) Doux. — *uainiu*, *uáiu*.

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[39] It is thought that the Island Caribs first introduced the cotton hammock into the Lesser Antilles from continental South America.

[40] Such articles were all listed by CHANCA (69) in his famous letter, and it is interesting to note that certain of these are still woven by the Caribs of Guiana.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

This tree is a ubiquitous pantropical strand species.

Rope and twine are made from the fibrous bark which is sometimes used in calking [41] dugouts. [283 3x]

Specimen citation: 20 (T), 3381.

Sida spp.

Balié, Balié savane.

Several species (*S. carpinifolia* L. f., *S. cordifolia* L., *S. rhombifolia* L., etc.) of this weedy, semi-woody tropical genus grow commonly along roadsides or in waste places in Dominica.

Crude brooms are made by binding together a number of uprooted plants of balié. With the stiff roots of these the Carib sweeps either his red clay yard or the floor of his house. [412]

Specimen citation: 545, 546, 547, 548, 3373.

Urena spp.

Maho (also spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Cousin. — *matérebe.*

Two shrubby, weedy species of this genus (*U. sinuata* L., and *U. lobata* L.) are found in waste places throughout the tropical regions of the world.

The Carib does not distinguish between these two species but calls them both maho cousin. The expressed juice of the pounded bark is taken as a cure for dysentery. The whole plant is brewed to make a tea used against cough. [278]

Specimen citation: 1 (T), 2927.

BOMBACACEAE. Silk-Cotton Tree Family.

Ceiba pentandra (Linnaeus) Gaertner, Fr. & Sem. 2: 244. 1791.

Eriodendron anfractuosum DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 479. 1824.

Ceiba caribaea A. Chevalier, Rev. Bot. Appl. 17: 188, 266. 1937.

Kapok, Silk Cotton Tree. — Fromager. — *kumáka.*

This giant buttressed species is a conspicuous tree of the American tropics. In Dominica fromager grows as scattered indi-

[41] When so used it is mixed with gomme (« gum elemi », *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

This tree is recorded in the West Indies from Jamaica and Hispaniola through the Lesser Antilles to Trinidad. In Dominica the species is most frequent on lower slopes along the windward coast.

A yellow milky sap is found in the wood of bois chica, and is employed by the Caribs to heal cracked or fissured feet. The ellipsoidal fruits are edible and are sought out particularly by the Indian children.

Specimen citation: 3178, 3360.

Symphonia globulifera Linnaeus filius, Suppl. 302. 1781.
Yellow Mang. — Mang (sometimes spelled Mangle) Blanc, Mang Jaune. — *kulúra*.

This stilt-rooted tree of the wet mountain forests of Dominica is known from tropical continental America as well as from Jamaica, Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad.

The Caribs use the timber of mang blanc as a source of shingles, boards, and the like. A yellowish gummy resin is also found in the wood of this species. The gum is hard and friable after contact with the air and has been used by Indian tribes of continental South America for torches, as a calking material, and as a cement to fix fishbone points to the shafts of their arrows (18).

A pitch-like resin, called *mani*, obtained from the wood of the closely related *Moronobea coccinea* Aublet of the continental tropics of America, is similarly used by aborigines of the basins of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers. For example, ROTH (43) refers to *mani* and its use in his discussion of the Indians of Guiana. Curiously, a blackish resin, also called *mani*, is employed by the Caribs of Dominica for strengthening home-made la pite (*Ananas*) twine [45]. It was first thought, since *Moronobea coccinea* does not occur in Dominica, that the local *mani* was derived from the yellow resin of mang blanc (*Symphonia*) but this is apparently not the case. Lumps of *mani* are always collected along the windward beaches where they are apparently tossed by the sea at certain seasons, particularly during « Carême » (February to

[45] *Mani* is put to a use similar to that which beeswax performs in sewing.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Annatto, a native shrub of South America, is widespread on the islands and continent of tropical America. In Dominica it is commonly grown as an ornamental but is also spontaneous at lower and middle elevations.

A vegetable dye, obtained from the waxy red aril surrounding each seed has had extensive usage. Today it is employed to color butter, cheese, oleomargarines, and (in Germany) even white wines. YBARRA states that in Jamaica it is supposed to possess medicinal properties (69). In the past annatto was employed most commonly as an ornamental paint, warpaint, or insect-repellant bodypaint by many of the Indian tribes of tropical America (among them the Tainos of the Greater Antilles), and even today is used by such widely separate groups as the Colorado Indians of Ecuador (65) and the Barama River Caribs of Guiana.

Today annatto is to be found cultivated close to most Carib dwellings. Formerly red *bíset* dye was much used (mixed together either with the oil obtained from the seeds of the forest tree, *Carapa guianensis*, or with that gotten from the kernel of the yattahu palm, *Rhyticocos amara*) as a body paint because of its property of protecting the skin from insect bites and from the ravages of sun and weather [47]. Island Carib prisoners taken by Columbus are also recorded to have had « ... their eyes and eyebrows stained circularly around... for ostentation... and also because it gives them a ferocious appearance » (69), but whether the dye was obtained from annatto or genip is not mentioned. To obtain the dye, ripe seeds are boiled in water which is then allowed to cool at which time the seeds are rubbed in the liquid with the palms of the hands. The water, after passing through a strainer which removes the now useless seeds, is allowed to stand during which period the coloring matter is deposited as a waxy vermilion substance. The latter may be dried (with or without oil which gives it consistency) and kept in balls until needed. Carapa or yattahu oil is added when the *bíset* paint is to be used. When only a small quantity of the dye was required it could be obtained by pouring a little oil on the hands, then rubbing a

[47] According to Labat (34) this paint preserved Indian corpses from disintegration for several months.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

quantity of seeds between the palms and scraping off the resultant paint with a piece of wood or with a knife. *Bíset* body paint was mixed with powdered charcoal (derived from the wood of bois chandelle, *Erithalis fruticosa*) to moderate its brilliance.

The roots of *Bixa orellana* are sometimes used to flavour meat or sauces. Sticks used as fire drills were made of annatto wood 'also from wood of bois la glu (*Sapium caribaeum*), bois chandelle (*Erithalis fruticosa*), maho noir (*Guatteria caribaea*), and cacao (*Theobroma Cacao*), etc.'. For further uses of *bíset* as an ingredient of ritual baths see *Ocimum micranthum* and *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 3225, 3303.

PASSIFLORACEAE.—Passion-Flower Family.

Passiflora foetida Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 959. 1753.

Mariguja. — *merékuia* (cf. Tupi *marakuya*), *lē méku* («monkey's genitals»).

This passion-flower occurs in Jamaica, Puerto Rico, the Lesser Antilles, and throughout tropical South America. In Dominica mariguja occurs on waste stony ground, open slopes, or in hedgerows at lower elevations.

The fruit of this wild species is eaten by the Caribs, and the leaves are made into a «tea» said to be good for colds. The tea is used also to bathe people when they are weak.

Specimen citation: 3193.

Passiflora laurifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 956. 1753.

Water Lemon — Liane Pomme, Pomme de Liane (name of fruit). — *merékuia* (cf. Tupi *marakuya*).

An oft-cultivated species of the West Indies and tropical South America. The pomme de liane is a common slender climbing vine most frequent in Dominica in thickets near streams at lower elevations, particularly on the windward coast.

Caribs peel the slender stems for use as a material in spiral basketry, in the same way that the lianas known as *mîbi* (*Anthurium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*) are employed. The fruits are edible.

Specimen citation: 108 (T), 2945, 3162, 3735.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Passiflora spp.

X824 Passion-Flower. — Pomme de Liane Zombie, Trois Quarts.

Several subherbaceous trailing species of this genus, including at least *P. andersonii* DC. and *P. rubra* L., are common on Dominica and are called trois quarts, apparently indiscriminately. The Island Carib women boil the stem and leaves of these plants and [853] the resulting decoction is drunk to induce lactation. A more complicated tea for the same purpose but using certain additional plants is described under *Annona muricata*.

Specimen citation: 127 (T), 470, 3081, 3284 (*Passiflora rubra*); 3348, 3580 (*P. andersonii*).

CARICACEAE. Papaya Family.

Carica papaya Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1036. 1753.

Papaya. Papaw. — *ababai*.

A number of horticultural varieties of the papaya exist; these are widely cultivated and spontaneous in tropical America, but their original homeland in this hemisphere remains unknown.

X824 The green (unripe) fruit is boiled and eaten by the Island
252 Caribs as a vegetable; the ripe fruit is eaten raw. A green fruit,
● [278] half-baked in hot embers, is split in two, and one half is then applied while hot as a poultice to any local inflammation. Raw meat or fowl is often wrapped in the leaves, for a digestive enzyme, papain, contained therein renders it more tender when cooked.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

BEGONIACEAE. Begonia Family.

X824 **Begonia dominicalis** A. DeCandolle ex Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 304, 1860, sensu lat.

Dominica Begonia. — L'Oseille.

A tall begonia commonly found in the moist ravines and wet forests of Dominica and Guadeloupe.

[278] The leaves and flowers of l'oseille (see also *Episcia melittifolia*) are employed by the Caribs as well as by the Creoles to make a tea for colds.

Specimen citation: 472, 473, 3312.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

8.28[x]

CACTACEAE. Cactus Family.

Opuntia dillenii (Ker-Gawl.) Haworth, Suppl. Pl. Succ. 79. 1819. Prickly Pear. — Raquette. — *bâta, pâta.*

This species of coastal sands and rocks is to be found on most shores bordering on the Caribbean, from Florida to northern South America.

Apparently on the wetter windward coast of Dominica raquette seldom sets fruit but elsewhere on the island the fruit is eaten and is used in the preparation of a culinary dye.

The Caribs employ the fleshy joints in their treatment of enlarged or painful spleen. This treatment, called « haler la rate », consists of local manipulation and massage with the hand and with leaves of *Ricinus communis*. A raquette joint the exact size of the right foot (the side opposite the location of the pain) is found, is deprived of its prickles so that it can be made to fit the foot and is then punctured all over and hung over a fire to dry and shrink. As the joint shrinks the spleen is supposed to shrink likewise and to assume its normal size.

[278] ● 755 824[x]

Specimen citation: 3814.

THYMELAEACEAE. Mezereon Family.

Daphnopsis caribaea Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 278. 1860. Maho (often spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Piment. 824[x]

This medium-sized tree is a native of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it is common in thickets or woodland borders at lower and middle elevations.

The rope and twine made from the tough fibrous bark are considered by the Carib inferior to that fashioned from mahot doux (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*). However maho piment rope is used more frequently than any other for hauling dugout canoes from the interior forests to the coast. The fiber is also infrequently employed in calking canoes[**]. A tea is made from the leaves of maho piment, and is used in a bath which will supposedly loosen any « spell » under which a person has been placed. Another tea is

[283] [396] [789]

[**] When so used it is mixed with gomme (« gum elemi », *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

crude singlepost presses for sugarcane, house-piles, forked posts for *maïna* (primitive type native dwelling), etc. Bay leaves and fruits are used in a tea drunk as a cure for colic and stomach ache, or in a shampoo for washing the hair or body. In more recent years the leaves have been sold to merchants of the island for distillation of the essential oil.

Specimen citation: 491, 492, 3220.

Myrcia citrifolia (Aublet) Urban, Fedde Repert. 16: 150. 1919.
Myrcia coriacea DeCandolle, Prodr. 3: 243. 1828.
Couroupoume. — Kurupum. — *iandua*, *táka-táka*.

This usually shrubby tree is known from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Lesser Antilles. On Dominica it is most frequent at lower elevations along the windward coast.

The wood is resistent to insects and so is used occasionally on the islands in house building.

The small edible fruits, prepared in a special tea (see *Annona muricata*) are used by the Carib women to induce lactation, while the leaves — along with those of fleurs la fête de Dieu (*Petrea kohautiana*), chou froidure (*Xanthosoma* sp.), and du thé pays (*Capraria biflora*) — are boiled up to make a tea used to combat diarrhea.

Specimen citation: 10 (T), 3253, 3324.

Psidium guajava Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 470. 1753.
Psidium guava Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 241. 1860.
Guava. — Gouyave, Goyave. — *balíkasi*, *kuiábu* (white variety); *balábui* (m), *waliapa* (w) (red variety).

The guava is widely planted for its fruit in tropical and subtropical regions where it often is a pioneer weedy tree on open abandoned clearings. It is a native of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica it occurs on open slopes at lower and middle elevations.

The fruit is edible, while an infusion of the bark, root, and leaves is given by the Caribs to those suffering from diarrhea or intestinal chill.

Specimen citation: 4 (T), 496, 3350.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

UMBELLIFERAE. Parsley Family.

X824 **Anethum graveolens** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 263. 1753.
Dill. — *L'Anis.*

A native of Europe, widely cultivated in gardens as a source of flavoring.

[263] Caribs have «borrowed» this plant from the Creoles and use it generally in flavoring. For another use of this species see *Annona muricata*.

Specimen citation: 3290.

Eryngium foetidum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 232. 1753.
Chardon Beni («blessed thistle»). — *balé, baré.*

A common weed throughout the American tropics on cultivated or waste land. Breton (7) early remarked about the peculiar fetid odor of this species which apparently has made the plant especially sought out for aboriginal medicine.

●[278] A tea made from chardon beni is believed by the Carib to be a cure-all for sickness. Special teas are also made with chardon beni as a constituent. Thus a tea for colds is brewed from a mixture of chardon beni and caapi (*Ipomoea* sp.); an emetic tea for fever from a combination of chardon beni, three small limes, and tabac nombi (unidentified); a tea «to give heat to the stomach» (when something eaten has disagreed with one) from a combination of chardon beni, jampana (unidentified), and z'herbes charpentier (*Dieuthera pectoralis* Juss.). For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 3340.

SAPOTACEAE. Sapodilla Family.

Chrysophyllum argenteum Jacquin, Enum. 15. 1760.
Chrysophyllum glabrum Jacquin, Enum. 15. 1760.
Bois Calmitte, Buie.

This Antillean tree occurs in Cuba and Hispaniola and on many of the Lesser Antilles.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824

EBENACEAE. Ebony Family.

Diospyros ebenaster Retzius, Obs. Bot. fasc. 5 : 31. 1779-1791. Black Apple. — *babará*.

This species is found in the West Indies from Puerto Rico to Dominica but is also recorded from Mexico, Costa Rica, and Brazil; it has become naturalized in the Philippines. The writers suspect that what passes as *Diospyros ebenaster* in Dominica is not identical with the black sapote of Mexico.

[271 324]

The fruits of *babará* (or sometimes chipped pieces of the bark) are crushed and placed in sacks or baskets which are then immersed in river-pools to drug the fish. The latter are stupefied and rise to the surface where they float bottom up as if dead. Fish so caught are, however, perfectly edible. Unlike another fish-drug, nivrage (*Clibadium sylvestre*), *babará* must be removed from the pool after use as its properties are not exhausted quickly.

Specimen citation : 3177, 3282.

GENTIANACEAE. Gentian Family.

Enicostema verticillatum (Linnaeus) Gilg in Engler & Prantl, Nat. Pfl. 4 : 67. 1895.

Slevogtia occidentalis Grisebach in De Candolle, Prodr. 9 : 65. 1845.

A perennial herb of the Old World Tropics and known in this hemisphere only in the Lesser Antilles where it is a common roadside weed.

[1789]

Caribs utilize this plant in a ritual bath given to unbind spells.

Specimen citation : 783, 2679, 3028.

APOCYNACEAE. Dogbane Family.

Lochnera rosea (Linnaeus) Reichenbach, Consp. 134. 1828.
Catharanthus roseus Don, Gen. Syst. 4 : 95. 1838.
Vinca rosea Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 944. 1759.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

 824x

Periwinkle. — Caca Poule. — *kákuti, ulukuti.*

An ornamental, widely planted and often naturalized in tropical regions.

A tea made from the leaves of caca poule is used by Caribs to treat diabetes and is also used to combat primary inertia in childbirth. [278 844]

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Tabernaemontana citrifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 210. 1753.
Bois Lait.

A small tree of Jamaica and the Lesser Antilles and found commonly in Dominica at lower elevations.

The brittle twigs of bois lait contain an acrid milky juice which is used by the Carib to allay pain in an aching tooth. [278 752]

Specimen citation: 3160, 3223.

ASCLEPIADACEAE. Milkweed Family.

Asclepias curassavica Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 215. 1753.
Red Milkweed.

A common weedy plant of fields and waste grounds in southeastern United States, the West Indies, and tropical continental America.

The Caribs consider the root of this plant to be a good febrifuge. [278]

Specimen citation: 3212.

CONVOLVULACEAE. Bindweed Family.

Ipomoea batatas (Linnaeus) Lamarck, Encycl. 6: 14. 1804.
Sweet Potato, Patate. — *mábi*[49], *ule* (generic name for edible roots or tubers).

Sweet potatoes are cultivated throughout warm temperate and tropical regions for their edible roots. Although this species is of

[49] Chanca (69) records this Carib name as *nabi*; apparently the words *mábi* and *ule* were used of any tuberous food. The Taino equivalent was «age». Lovén (37) considers «ages» to be true yams (*Dioscorea* spp.) but he is possibly mistaken for most of the edible species of this genus are plants of the Old World tropics introduced very early into the Antilles.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

Ipomoea spp.
pútuku

Several wild twining species of *Ipomoea* (other than *I. pes-caprae*) are to be found in Dominica.

Leaves of certain species are employed by the Caribs to rub the body when bathing, and their use is considered to bring health and luck to the user (see *Eryngium foetidum*). [515 777]

Specimen citation: 3318, 3323.

BORAGINACEAE. Borage Family.

Bourreria succulenta Jacquin, Enum. 14. 1760.
Tawai, Tawny. — *taudi*.

A small tree of the West Indies and common in Dominica at lower elevations.

From the inner bark of this species is obtained an emollient fluid which the Indians often use to soothe inflamed eyes, a disease from which they frequently suffer. The wood burns easily and so the Caribs sometimes use it for torches [59]. [228 164 373]

Specimen citation: 17 (T).

Cordia reticulata Vahl, Eclog. Am. 3: 5. 1807.
Coco Poule.

A medium-sized tree of the Lesser Antilles and Venezuela and common in Dominica at lower and middle elevations.

The leaves of coco poule are believed to relieve headache. When used for headache they are placed on the forehead of the suffering Carib. [278]

Specimen citation: 3359.

Tournefortia bicolor Swartz, Prodr. 40. 1788.
Mirette.

This species occurs throughout tropical America.

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[59] Because of this use the tree has sometimes been called bois chandelle, but should not be confused with *Erithalis fruticosa*, the true Carib bois chandelle.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Leaves of mirette, when pounded with an oil, are used by the Carib as a poultice for boils or carbuncles.

Specimen citation: 3263.

VERBENACEAE. Vervain Family.

Aegiphila martinicensis Jacquin, Obs. Bot. 2: 3. 1764.
Bois Cabrit.

A shrub or small tree of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica this species occurs in woodlands and thickets chiefly at lower elevations.

The fruits and seeds of bois cabrit are employed by the Caribs as a lure or bait in snares set for birds, while leaves of this species are an ingredient in a ritual bath used to combat diarrhea (see *Ocimum micranthum*).

Specimen citation: 3320.

Clerodendrum fragrans var. plenifloram Schauer in DC. Prod. 11: 666. 1847.
Fragrant Clerodendrum. — Moselle.

This double-flowered plant, originally cultivated in the West Indies, has now become extensively naturalized in the Caribbean area.

The Island Carib of Dominica inhales the fragrance of the fresh flower as a cure when suffering from a headache.

Specimen citation: 864, 3308.

Cornutia pyramidata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 628. 1753.
Bois Cassave.

This small shrubby tree occurs throughout the West Indies and Central America and occurs in Dominica on lower open slopes.

A stain may be obtained from the juicy blue fruits. This is used by the Creoles of Dominica as a sort of blue ink; if the juice is boiled with lime juice a red ink is formed.

The juice of the fruits provides a blue-black stain sometimes used by Caribs for coloring thread and cloth, while the leaves are one of the ingredients of a tea used in the cure of painful retroverted uterus (see *Annona muricata*).

Specimen citation: 19 (T), 869, 3275.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824[R]

Lantana camara Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 627. 1753.
Wild Sage. — Mabizou.

Wild sage is widely distributed throughout tropical and subtropical America from Florida to Argentina; it has been introduced also into similar climatic regions of the Old World. As a weedy shrub it occurs in Dominica in waste places at lower and middle elevations.

The root is placed in unheated water which is then drunk by the Carib as a cure for gonorrhea. If this plant is identical with the « Indian sage » (*waluhúmeru*) of Breton the « balm », distilled by detaching a leaf, was used as a styptic. Sufferers from pleurisy would also expose their sick side to steam rising from a pot of boiling leaves. For a further use of this plant see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*. [278] [757]

Specimen citation: 858, 3201.

Petrea kohautiana Presl, Bot. Bemerk. 99. 1844.
Purple Wreath. — Fleur (La Fête) de Dieu.

A showy woody vine of the Lesser Antilles, common on Dominica at lower elevations especially on the windward coast.

The purple flowers of this vine, together with those of branda (*Chiococca alba*), are brewed into a tea used as an abortive. Another tea, utilizing this plant as an ingredient, is described under *Myrcia citrifolia*. [278] [847]

Specimen citation: 870, 3279.

Stachytarpheta spp.
Verveine. — *kuiékuiéti* (« slippery, slimy »), *kurúbiá ákuani* (« bird-bath » or « twist-bath »).

Two species of verveine, *S. cayennensis* (L. C. Rich.) Vahl and *S. jamaicensis* (L.) Vahl, are common in Dominica. These plants are weeds with a wide dispersal in tropical America.

A tea from verveine, made by boiling the whole plant, is used by the Carib in ritual bathing (for undoing spells, etc.), for colds and in fact for « any illness ». The whole plant also is a constituent of not only a special purgative tea given after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.) but also a ritual bath discussed under *Ocimum micranthum*. [278] [846]

Specimen citation: 3213, 3305.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Vitex divaricata Swartz, Prodr. 93. 1788.
Bois Lezard. — *hulcúmele, hureúmele* (« lizard leaf »).

A West Indian tree known from Cuba to Guiana and found in Dominica chiefly at middle elevations.

Caribs make the timber into boards, scantlings, and shingles; and the burnt and powdered bark is applied to ulcers as a cure.

Specimen citation: 1653.

LABIATAE. Mint Family.

Hyptis atrorubens Poiteau, Ann. Mus. Paris 7: 466. 1806.
Ti (Petit) Baume, La Menthe Grand Chemin.

A slender, creeping, weedy species widely distributed in continental tropical America, and widely dispersed in Dominica especially in moist cultivated land at lower and middle elevations.

Caribs crush the bark of bois tan (*Byrsonima spicata*) together with leafy stems of ti baume to form a « chance », a decotion used in the preparation of a bath given to hunting dogs before the chase. Thus good hunting is believed assured. For further uses of this species in teas and ritual baths see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, *Annona muricata*, and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 13a (T), 881, 4004.

Leonotis nepetaefolia (Linnaeus) R. Brown in Ait. Hort. Kew. ed. 2, 3: 409. 1811.
Gros Tête.

A weed of fields and waste ground with a world-wide distribution in the warm temperate and tropical regions.

The inflorescences of this orange-flowered herb are made into a tea used by the Caribs as a cure for fever.

Specimen citation: 3401.

Ocimum micranthum Willdenow, Enum. 630. 1908.
Wild Basil. — Fon Bazin (from the French – framboisin).

A weedy annual of tropical America.

Carib fishermen are wont to place this plant in the box with their bait for they consider it a good luck charm. Fon bazin is a

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

FON BAZIN IS A

constituent of various ritual baths (i.e. connected with animalistic beliefs). A special bath is given eight or nine days after childbirth to the mother and another to the newborn infant. Plants used in the mother's bath are fon bazin, coton noir (*Gossypium citifolium*), roku (*Bixa orellana*), verveine (*Stachytarpheta* spp.), semen contra (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*), sou marque (*Cassia bicapsularis*), pistache (*Arachis hypogaea*), and bouton blanc (*Egletes prostrata*). Plants used in the baby's bath include fon bazin, pachouli (? *Pogostemon* sp.), and graines z'yeux (unidentified). Another ritual bath for «unlucky» canoes is concocted from leaves of fon bazin, patate bord la mer (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*), maho piment (*Daphnopsis caribaea*), 'ti baume (*Hyptis atrorubens*), marigold (*Wedelia trilobata*), roku (*Bixa orellana*), malbruk (*Piper* spp.), lavandre (*Alpinia speciosa*), poivre Guinée (*Aframomum granum-paradisi*), etc. Finally a ritual bath for colds includes leaves of fon bazin, corossol (*Annona muricata*), bois cabrit (*Aegiphila martinicensis*), and kudjuruk (*Petiveria alliacea*).

Specimen citation : 3200, 3302.

SOLANACEAE. Nightshade Family.

Brunfelsia americana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 191. 1753.

Rain-Tree. — Empoisonneur.

This small scrubby tree is found in woodlands of the West Indies from eastern Puerto Rico to Dominica. On the latter island it is most frequent at lower elevations on the windward Atlantic coast.

The small ripe berries of this species are used by the Carib as a poison.

Specimen citation : 3183, 3209.

Capsicum frutescens Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 189. 1753.

Capsicum baccatum Linnaeus, Mant. 1 : 47. 1767.

Red Pepper. — Piment. — *áti*[51] (w) ; *buémuē*, *ualéiri* (m).

[51] According to Loven (37) the Taino name for this species was *aji* from which has come the Spanish form *aji* (earlier *axi*) widely used in America today.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X824 Varieties of this species are cultivated for their fruits throughout the warm and tropical regions of both hemispheres.

[263] The Island Caribs generally cultivate pepper plants near their houses. The fruits are utilized both as a relish and for seasoning sauces. It is also said that the expressed juice of the fruit (dropped [278] into the eyes) was used formerly in cases of ophthalmia. Pounded pepper leaves, mixed with shark oil, are employed in the making of poultices for wounds and sores.

Specimen citation : no herbarium material collected.

Nicotiana tabacum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 180. 1753.

Tobacco, Tabac Pays. — *iúli*, *iúri* (w), *itámăle* (m).

The tobacco plant, a native of tropical America is cultivated throughout the world.

[249] The Caribs grow this plant less today than formerly. Tobacco smoke is blown on ailing infants by midwives and other old women in order to make them well and strong. Tobacco juice is used as [278] an emetic, and was formerly drunk in dangerous quantities by [187] neophyte piai-men and candidates for chieftainship, both as a trial of endurance and « in order to see visions ». Powdered to- [782] bacco [the leaves were dried near the hearth fire (7)] was burnt on the blade of a paddle as a propitiatory offering to the « Maitre Tête-Chien » (anthropomorphic chief of all tête-chiens, the local boa snake (*Constrictor orophias*) and other spirits. It was also [276] used as a narcotic (for pleasure) by placing a little powder or a dried piece of the leaf, together with wood ash and moistened with sea water, between the inner surface of the lip and the gum (7).

Specimen citation : 151 (T).

Solanum melongena Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 186. 1753.

Egg Plant. — Belongène.

The egg plant is apparently native to southern Asia, but was introduced early from Spain to America (21). It is now widely cultivated in all tropical and subtropical regions.

[262] Caribs grow this species for its fruits which they eat chiefly [252] in the boiled form. The plant is sometimes grafted on the weedy « batard belongène » (*Solanum torvum*).

Specimen citation : no herbarium material collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 X

Solanum nigrum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 186. 1753.
Common Nightshade. — Herbe Amere, Zeb Amere.

A weedy, cosmopolitan, annual, with a world-wide distribution. In Dominica this nightshade is very common on waste and cultivated grounds and especially on the sites of abandoned charcoal pits. It is regularly sold as a green in the native Creole markets (31, under name *S. nodiflorum*).

Herbe amere is also gathered and used by the Caribs as a potherb. [262]

Specimen citation: 3221.

Solanum torvum Swartz, Prodr. 47. 1788.
Batard Belongène.

A common coarse weedy shrub, found in waste places, throughout the subtropical and tropical regions of the world.

Batard belongène is sometimes used in Dominica as a rootstock on which to graft the common egg plant. [242] The Caribs also utilize a piece of the root of this plant as an ingredient in a tea to cure « echauffement » (gonorrhea); the other ingredients in this tea include three of the four quarters of a quartered root (3" to 4" long and 2½" in diameter) of *pak* (an unidentified scandent mimosaceous plant, possibly *Mimosa casta* L. or *M. ceratonia* L. which occur in Dominica), seeds of white carapate (*Ricinus communis*), and a root of corossol sur (*Annona muricata*). [278]

Specimen citation: 30 (T), 1164, 1799, 3349.

SCROPHULARIACEAE. Figwort Family.

Capraria biflora Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 628. 1753.
Goatweed. — Du Thé Pays (pronounce « di té peyi »).

A suffrutescent herb of waste and cultivated areas in subtropical and tropical America.

This species is listed as one of the economic plants of Puerto Rico (10) and in Venezuela it is used against diarrhea and other intestinal complaints (40).

The Caribs of Dominica employ the plant as an ingredient in [278]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

a tea used to combat diarrhea ; the other ingredients are discussed under *Myrcia citrifolia*.

Specimen citation : no specimen collected.

Scoparia dulcis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 116. 1753.

Balié Doux [52].

A weedy annual widespread in the tropics of America and the Old World. In Dominica the plant is found in wet open fields at lower and middle elevations.

From the leaves and stems of balié doux is prepared a tea which is used by the Caribs to bathe their children. It is also drunk occasionally as a fever preventative. The leaves are an ingredient in a special purgative tea given after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.).

Specimen citation : 3325.

BIGNONIACEAE. Trumpet-Creeper Family.

Crescentia cujete Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 626. 1753.

Calabash. — Calebasse. — *matálu* (m), *uíra* (w).

The calabash tree is found in southern Florida, throughout continental tropical America as well as in the West Indies but almost always close to human habitation. It occurs in Dominica from lower to middle elevations and as elsewhere is frequently planted for its utilitarian fruits.

Calabash wood, though not available in large sizes, is moderately hard, tough and strong, and is utilized in various areas of Latin America for tool handles, ox yokes, etc. (50). Elsewhere in its range the tart copious inner pulp of the calabash fruit has served as food (21), but more often as a domestic medicine, as a remedy for colds (50), as a purgative which can bring about abortion in cattle (50), and as an ingredient of a poultice used against skin diseases. The fruit is reportedly the source of a black dye for cloth. The woody thin shells of the fruit after scraping are used

[52] It is not certain whether this is identical with the Carib « balié » mentioned by Breton (7).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

[824] However no authentic herbarium material of this species has been been collected on Dominica.

Tabebuia pallida (Lindley) Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. 3: 199. 1863 [53].

White Cedar. — Poirier Blanc.

White cedar is a familiar tree of Central America and Venezuela, and in the West Indies is to be found from Hispaniola to Trinidad. In Dominica it grows commonly in the drier coastal localities.

This fine timber tree is said by the Caribs to exist as « red » and « white » varieties of which the former is preferred for [314 396] timber. Poirier wood lasts well in salt water, and is used for the ribs and for the built-up sides of dugouts; it is employed also in the construction of mortars, wooden bowls, floor boards, and the like. The bark of the tree, used as a plaster, is said to cure [278 752] corns. The leaves, either whole or chopped up finely, are placed on sores as a poultice. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 839, 3292.

GESNERIACEAE. Gesneria Family.

Episcia melittifolia (Linnaeus) Martius, Nov. Gen. 3: 42. 1829. L'Oseille.

A beautiful herbaceous plant common in moist ravines and wet forests of Dominica and Guadeloupe, principally at middle elevations.

[278] The leaves and pink flowers of this species, like those of *Begonia dominicalis* (also called l'oseille) are used by the Caribs to make a tea for colds.

Specimen citation: 827, 828, 829, 830, 1162, 1199, 1345, 1444, 1855, 2212, 2335, 3122, 3241, 3555.

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[53] The leaves of this species vary from a unifoliolate to a multifoliolate condition often on the same plant. A number of segregates have been described based on incomplete specimens showing these variations.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

PLANTAGINACEAE. PLANTAIN FAMILY.

Plantago major Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 112. 1753.
Plantain.

This annual herb of the Old World is widely distributed as a weed in the western hemisphere.

Plantain plants are boiled by the Carib to make a decoction employed for washing sore or inflamed eyes. [278]

Specimen citation: 124 (T), 784, 3366.

ACANTHACEAE. ACANTHUS FAMILY.

Lepidagathis alopecuroidea (Vahl) R. Brown ex Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 453. 1861.

A common weed of continental tropical America and of many of the West Indian islands.

The Dominica Caribs make a soothing tea from the foliage of this plant and give it to frightened cnildren in order to calm them. [854 278]

Specimen citation: 840, 3229, 3611, 3689.

Pachystachys coccinea (Aublet) Nees in DC. Prodr. 11: 319. 1847.
Chandelier.

A colorful species native to Trinidad and the Guianas but locally naturalized in Dominica and other isles of the Antilles.

Chandelier grows adventively in the vicinity of some of the Carib houses. From the leaves a tea is made which is supposedly good for headache. [278]

Specimen citation: 846, 847, 3307.

RUBIACEAE. MADDER FAMILY.

Antirrhoea coriacea (Vahl) Urban, Symb. Ant. 1: 436. 1899.
Stenostomum dichotomum DeCandolle, Prodr. 4: 461. 1830.
Stenostomum coriaceum Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 334. 1861.
Acouquoi. — *ãukakua* [54].

[54] Cf. Carib; *uakukua* = ramier (wood pigeon); *lakukua* = knot or protuberance on wood.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

A medium sized tree recorded from Jamaica and Puerto Rico, and in the Caribbees from Montserrat to St. Vincent.

Acouquoi possesses a hard, dense, fine-grained, deep yellow wood which is said to be very durable and which is used by the Caribs to make forked supporting posts for the primitive dwellings known as *mwina*. This species is known as a « hunter's tree », for the yellow pulp of the fruits is eaten by game birds [55].

An early use of a tree call *aokahwa* is recorded by BRETON (7) who states that a decoction of the bitter bark was employed for washing and healing sores. The bark of *Antirrhoea* contains just such a bitter principle and since the present Carib name suggests Breton's *aokakwa*, the two names may well refer to this same species.

Specimen citation : 100 (T).

Borreria laevis (Lamarck) Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 349. 1861. Zeb (Herbe) Akwe.

This species is a weedy herb of tropical America and is common along roadsides and in waste places in Dominica.

A tea is made from zeb akwe and this is employed by the Carib in the treatment of colds.

Specimen citation : 3372.

Chimarrhis cymosa Jacquin, Sel. Stirp. Am. Hist. 61. 1763. Bois Rivière.

A tree, recorded from Cuba, Jamaica, and certain of the Lesser Antilles. Bois Rivière is a common species in Dominica particularly at middle elevations.

The wood of this species has an unusual yellow hue. It is used for boards by the Caribs and Creoles.

Specimen citation : 695.

Chiococca alba (Linnaeus) Hitchcock, Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 4 : 94. 1893.

Chiococca racemosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 917. 1759.

West Indian Snowberry. — Branda.

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[55] See footnote 54.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

A woody vine common in the American tropics and found in Dominica at lower elevations.

Flowers of branda, together with those of *Petrea kohautiana*, are brewed by the Caribs into a tea used as an abortive.

Specimen citation: 683, 692.

Erithalis fruticosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 930. 1759.

Black Torch. — Bois Chandelle, Bois Flambeau. — *túli* (« torch »; cf. Tupi *turi*).

This shrubby tree is widely distributed in the Caribbean region, being found in southern Florida, the West Indies, and Central America. In Dominica bois chandelle grows commonly in the low scrubby thickets of the windward coast.

The extremely hard, durable, wood is used by the Island Caribs for piles and posts and indeed wherever a timber is needed for contact with the ground. An inflammable resin is located in the wood which is split and bound into torches. These torches, about three to four feet long and three to four inches in diameter, burn rapidly and last for approximately two hours. The soot of burnt *túli* wood was formerly used by the Caribs as a substitute for burnt gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) gum.

Specimen citation: 15 (T), 684, 3291.

Exostemma sanctae-luciae (Kentish) J. Britten, Journ. of Bot. 53: 138. 1915.

Exostemma floribundum Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 5: 19. 1819.

Quina. — *utáuaho*.

This species ranges through the Lesser Antilles.

From the bark of quina Caribs make a concentrated decoction which is employed chiefly as an emetic and purgative. When combined with the pounded leaves of marigold (*Wedelia trilobata*) and immortel (*Erythrina corallodendron* var. *bicolor* Krukoff) the decoction is also given to women to induce expulsion of the placenta after childbirth. Canoe paddles are fashioned from the wood.

Specimen citation: 139 (T).

Genipa americana Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10. 931. 1759.

Genip. — *álasibíkai* (m), *sáua* (w).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824 A West Indian and continental tropical American tree to be found on Dominica in moist forests at middle elevations.

The wood of this species is elastic and tough and is utilized in the Antilles for general construction purposes (8). At the time of the Discovery the Tainos and Ciguayos of the West Indies painted themselves with the blue-black, fast stain obtained from genipa fruits. LOVEN (37) states that aborigines of the Guiana coast and the upper Orinoco also painted themselves with this dye, which is used commonly in the same way by lowland Indians throughout tropical South America.

[262] Genips are eaten by the Island Caribs. Formerly the dark fruit stain was used on solemn occasions by the Caribs to draw [302] decorative lines on the face (7). However, among these Indians the customary paint was the protective *biset* (*Bixa orellana*). The [278] fruit juice of genip also is smeared and rubbed on the body to cure diseases of the skin. The juicy pulp, along with water from stems of balisier (*Heliconia*), and the ashes from burnt leaf heart of roseau (*Gynerium*), forms a medicinal used locally against yaws.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Geophila herbacea (Jacquin) Schumann in Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pflf. 4: 119. 1891.

Geophila reniformis Chamisso & Schlechtendal, Linnaea 4: 137. 1829.

Petit Cappi Tourterelle.

A creeping herb found in moist woodlands in the tropical regions of both hemispheres.

[789] A ritual bath made from this plant is used by the Caribs to unbind « spells ».

Specimen citation: no specimens collected.

Morinda citrifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 176. 1753.

Feuille Froide.

This low coastal tree is a native of Malaysia but is naturalized in the West Indies. In its homeland the species has many uses.

In Dominica feuille froide is employed by the Creole population as a general medicinal plant. The leaves are frequently wrapped around rheumatic joints.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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The Caribs also term this species a « pain killer », but the authors do not know of any specific aboriginal uses.

Specimen citation : 2954, 3319.

CAPRIFOLIACEAE. Honeysuckle Family.

Sambucus simpsoni Rehder in Sargent, Trees & Shrubs 2 : 187. 1911.

Elder. — Suyeau.

A shrubby species to be found from Florida to Louisiana, in Central America, and on certain islands of the West Indies. In Dominica it occurs at middle elevations.

The leaves of suyeau are boiled by the Carib Indian in order to form a « tea » used in the treatment of colds and fever.

Specimen citation : s. n. (T), 38B (T).

CUCURBITACEAE. Gourd Family.

Momordica charantia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1009. 1753.

Wild Balsam Apple. — Pomme Coolie, Pavecka.

A native of the Old World (1) (8) now widely distributed in the tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres. This herbaceous species has had a long association with man and is put to a great number of minor uses wherever it grows.

Carib youngsters often eat the fruit of the wild balsam apple while the whole plant, mashed in water, forms a brew considered good for childrens' colds.

Specimen citation : 3217.

LOBELIACEAE. Lobelia Family.

Isotoma longiflora (Linnaeus) Presl, Prodr. Lob. 42. 1836.

Pipe Zombi.

A West Indian herb, common on moist banks or in fields generally at lower elevations.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Caribs use the chopped up leaves of this plant to make a poultice for injuries to the foot, etc.

Specimen citation: 785, 2944.

COMPOSITAE. Daisy Family.

Ambrosia hispida Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 743. 1814.

Ambrosia artihmifolia DeCandolle, Prodr. 5: 525. 1836.

Sept Villes.

A perennial littoral herb found in Florida, the West Indies, and Central America.

An infusion of this plant is used by the Caribs as a febrifuge and vermifuge.

Specimen citation: no material available.

Ambrosia paniculata Michaux, Fl. Bor. Amer. 2: 183. 1803.

An annual herb of Florida, the Bahamas, and the West Indies. According to Fawcett and Rendle (18) this species is « a powerful vulnerary employed in baths and fomentations ».

The Caribs of Dominica often cultivate this plant about their huts. A « tea » made from the leaves is employed as a febrifuge.

Specimen citation: 3190.

Bidens pilosa Linnaeus var. **radiata** Schultz Bipontinus in Webb & Berthelot, Hist. Canar. 3 (2): 242. 1836-50.

Bidens leucantha Willdenow Sp. Pl. 3. 1719. 1804.

White Daisy. — Baksa.

A common weed of the subtropical and tropical regions of both hemispheres.

Juice squeezed from the leaves of this species is employed by the Caribs as a cure for irritated or inflamed eyes.

Specimen citation: 3285.

Clibadium sylvestre (Aublet) Baillon, Hist. Pl. 8: 307. 1886.

Clibadium badieri Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 368. 1861.

Nivrage (from the French, *enivrer* — « to intoxicate »). — *kunámi* (cf. Tupi *kunabi*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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824x

This species is found in the West Indies and in South America from Venezuela to Brazil.

Various species of this genus are used as fish poisons by aborigines of the American tropics, and probably several species possessing this toxic principle are called *kwaámi*. BRETON was the first to mention a *kwaámi* as an Island Carib fish poison (7). LOVEN (37) thinks this, the commonest fish poison of the Island Caribs, to be identical with the *conamy* of the Galibis and with the *kwaos* of the Wapishianas. LOVEN believes that the Island Caribs brought this plant with them from South America.

Today bundles of the leaves of *kwaámi* are pounded and thrown into river pools by the Dominica Caribs. When the fish begin to jump out of the water to escape the effects of the drug, the Caribs jump in and seize them. Unlike *kabaré* this drug may be used in sea-water pools as well as in those of the rivers. [226 278]

Specimen citation: 3195.

Egletes prostrata (Swartz) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 334. 1891.
Egletes domingensis Cassini, Dict. Sci. Nat. 14: 265. 1819.
Bouton Blanc.

A perennial prostrate herb of sandy shores, with a distribution from Hispaniola and Jamaica to Venezuela.

The Dominica Caribs utilise bouton blanc as one ingredient of a ritual bath given to the mother eight or nine days after childbirth (see *Ocimum micranthum*). [846]

Specimen citation: 773.

Neurolaena lobata (Linnaeus) R. Brown in DeCandolle, Prodr. 6: 292. 1837.
Z'Herbes à Pique.

This shrubby perennial is widespread in the thickets and woodlands of tropical America.

Z'herbes à pique is used by the Creoles of Dominica as a remedy for yaws (30). They also use the pounded stems and leaves of this plant either as a mild fish poison or as a wash (mixed with the bark of *Mammea americana* L.) applied to domestic animals infested with ticks.

The plant is known also to the Caribs whose women rub the [862]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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leaves and flowers on their breasts when they desire to wean a child. This procedure is intended to render a bitter taste to the infant, not to stop lactation.

Specimen citation: 146 (T).

Rolandra fruticosa (Linnaeus) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 360. 1891.

Rolandra argentea Rottboell, Coll. Soc. Med. Havn. 2: 258. 1775. Tête Negresse.

A woody species of the West Indies and continental tropical America.

An infusion made from the roots of tête negresse is drunk by the Carib as a cure for either gonorrhea or stomach ache.

Specimen citation: 3278.

Wedelia trilobata (Linnaeus) Hitchcock, Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 4: 99. 1893.

Wedelia carnosa L. C. Richard in Pers. Syn. 2: 490. 1807. Marigold. — Patte Canard. — *tarassi Tôkina* (« T's medicine »).

This species, widespread in the lands bordering on the Caribbean, is found in Florida, the West Indies, and Central America. In Dominica it occurs commonly on banks and in fields from sea level to middle elevations.

The pounded leaves of marigold are used by the Caribs as a poultice on sores. For further uses see *Erostemma sanctae-luciae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 22 (T), 3339.

V. ENUMERATION OF PLANTS BY CARIB USES

Plant sources of materials for Basketry or Plaiting

Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.	Bromeliaceae
Anthurium palmatum (L.) Kth.	Araceae
Bambusa vulgaris Schrad.	Gramineae
Banisteria longifolia Sw.	Malphigiaceae
Calathea lutea (Aubl.) G. F. W. Mey.	Marantaceae
Clusia pluknetii Urb.	Guttiferae
Coccoloba swartziana Dum.	Polygonaceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Tapura antillana Gleason	Dichapetalaceae
Terminalia catappa L.	Combretaceae
Theobroma cacao L.	Sterculiaceae
Xanthosoma atrovirens Koch & Bouché	Araceae
Xanthosoma brasiliense (Desf.) Engl.	Araceae
Xanthosoma violaceum Schott.	Araceae
Zea mays L.	Gramineae

Plant sources of Mollidae or Charma

Aegiphila martinicensis Jacq.	Verbenaceae
Aframomum granum-paradisi (Hook.) K. Schum.	Zingiberaceae
Alpinia speciosa (Wendl.) K. Schum.	Zingiberaceae
Ambrosia hispida Pursh	Compositae
Ambrosia paniculata Michx.	Compositae
Anacardium occidentale L.	Anacardiaceae
Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.	Bromeliaceae
Annona muricata L.	Annonaceae
Annona reticulata L.	Annonaceae
Annona squamosa L.	Annonaceae
Anthurium palmatum (L.) Kth.	Araceae
Antirrhoea coccinea (Vahl) Urb.	Rubiaceae
Arachis hypogaea L.	Leguminosae
Asclepias curassavica L.	Asclepiadaceae
Begonia dominicalis A. DC.	Begoniaceae
Bidens pilosa L. var. radiata Sch. Bip.	Compositae
Bixa orellana L.	Bixaceae
Borreria laevis (Lam.) Griseb.	Rubiaceae
Bourreria succulenta Jacq.	Boraginaceae
Bursera simaruba (L.) Sarg.	Burseraceae
Byrsonima spicata (Cav.) DC.	Malphigiaceae
Caladium bicolor (Ait.) Vent.	Araceae
Capraria biflora L.	Scrophulariaceae
Capsicum frutescens L.	Solanaceae
Carica papaya L.	Caricaceae
Cassia alata L.	Leguminosae
Cassia bicapsularis L.	Leguminosae
Cassia hirsuta L.	Leguminosae
Cassia occidentalis L.	Leguminosae
Cecropia peltata L.	Moraceae
Chenopodium ambrosioides L.	Chenopodiaceae
Chiococca alba (L.) Hitchcock	Rubiaceae
Clerodendrum fragrans Vent. var. pleniflorum Schauer	Verbenaceae
Clusia plukenetii Urb.	Guttiferae
Cordia reticulata Vahl	Boraginaceae
Cornutia pyramidata L.	Verbenaceae
Cyathea arborea (L.) J. E. Sm.	Cyatheaceae
Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
Daphnopsis caribaea Griseb.	Thymeliaceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Desmodium axillare (Sw.) DC. var. gemmiparum Urb.	Leguminosae
Diastichera peltoralis Jum.	Acanthaceae
Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacq.) Schott	Araceae
Dioscorea sp.	Dioscoreaceae
Egletes prostrata (Sw.) O. Ktze.	Compositae
Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn.	Graminese
Eleutherine bulbosa (Mill.) Urb.	Iridaceae
Exacotaema verticillatum (L.) Gilg	Gentianaceae
Episcia melittifolia (L.) Mart.	Gesneriaceae
Eryngium foetidum L.	Umbelliferae
Erythrina corallodendron L. var. bicolor Krukoff	Leguminosae
Euphorbia hypericifolia L.	Euphorbiaceae
Exostemma sanctae-luciae (Kunt.) J. Britton	Rubiaceae
Ficus spp.	Moraceae
Furcraea tuberosa Ait. f.	Amaryllidaceae
Genipa americana L.	Rubiaceae
Geophila herbacea (Jacq.) Schumann	Rubiaceae
Gossypium vitifolium Lam.	Malvaceae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Graminese
Hedychium coronarium Koen.	Zingiberaceae
Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
Hibiscus esculentus L.	Malvaceae
Hyptis atrorubens Poit.	Labiatae
Inga laurina (Sw.) Willd.	Leguminosae
Ipomoea pes-caprae (L.) Roth	Convolvulaceae
Ipomoea spp.	Convolvulaceae
Isotoma longiflora (L.) Presl	Lobeliaceae
Jatropha curcas L.	Euphorbiaceae
Jatropha gossypiifolia L.	Euphorbiaceae
Lantana camara L.	Verbenaceae
Leonotis nepetaefolia (L.) R. Br.	Labiatae
Lepidagathis alopecuroides (Vahl) R. Br.	Acanthaceae
Lochnera rosea (L.) Reich.	Apocynaceae
Manihot esculenta Crantz	Euphorbiaceae
Maranta arundinacea L.	Marantaceae
Mimosa pudica L.	Leguminosae
Momordica charantia L.	Cucurbitaceae
Monstera pertusa (L.) de Vriese	Araceae
Morinda citrifolia L.	Rubiaceae
Musa paradisiaca L.	Musaceae
Myrcia citrifolia (Aubl.) Urb.	Myrtaceae
Neurolaena lobata (L.) R. Br.	Compositae
Nicotiana tabacum L.	Solanaceae
Ocimum micranthum Willd.	Labiatae
Opuntia dillenii (Ker-Gawl) Haw.	Cactaceae
Oxandra laurifolia (Sw.) Rich.	Annonaceae
Pachystachys coccinea (Aubl.) Nees	Acanthaceae
Pancratium speciosum L. F.	Amaryllidaceae
Paspalum laxum Lam.	Graminaceae

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Passiflora andersonii DC.	Passifloraceae
Passiflora foetida L.	Passifloraceae
Passiflora rubra L.	Passifloraceae
Peperomia pellucida (L.) H. B. K.	Piperaceae
Petiveria alliacea L.	Phytolaccaceae
Petrea kohautiana Presl.	Verbenaceae
Phyllanthus spp.	Euphorbiaceae
Picrasma antillana Urb.	Simaroubaceae
Pimenta racemosa (Miller) L. W. Moore	Myrtaceae
Piper aequale Vahl	Piperaceae
Piper dilatatum L. C. Rich	Piperaceae
Pitcairnia gracilis Mez	Bromeliaceae
Pitcairnia spicata (Lam.) Mez var. sulphurea (Andrews) Mez	Bromeliaceae
Phytolacca rivinoides Kth. & Bouché	Phytolaccaceae
Piper spp.	Piperaceae
Pithecellobium jupumba (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae
Plantago major L.	Plantaginaceae
Polygala paniculata L.	Polygalaceae
Portulaca oleracea L.	Portulacaceae
Pothomorphe peltata (L.) Miq.	Piperaceae
Psidium guajava L.	Myrtaceae
Psittacanthus martinicensis (Presl.) Eichler	Loranthaceae
Rheedia lateriflora L.	Guttiferae
Richeria grandis Vahl	Euphorbiaceae
Ricinus communis L.	Euphorbiaceae
Rivina humilis L.	Phytolaccaceae
Rolandra fruticosa (L.) O. Ktze.	Compositae
Sambucus simpsoni Rehder	Caprifoliaceae
Sapindus saponaria L.	Sapindaceae
Scoparia dulcis L.	Scrophulariaceae
Smilax guianensis Vitm.	Liliaceae
Solanum torvum Sw.	Solanaceae
Spondias mombin L.	Anacardiaceae
Stachytarpheta cayennensis (L. C. Rich.) Vahl	Verbenaceae
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (L.) Vahl	Verbenaceae
Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers	Bignoniaceae
Tabernaemontana citrifolia L.	Apocynaceae
Tournefortia bicolor Sw.	Boraginaceae
Trimezia martinicensis (Jacq.) Herb.	Iridaceae
Urena lobata L.	Malvaceae
Urena sinuata L.	Malvaceae
Vitex divaricata Sw.	Verbenaceae
Wedelia trilobata (L.) Hitchc.	Compositae
Xanthosoma sp.	Araceae
Zea mays L.	Graminae

Plant sources of Thatch

Andropogon bicornis L.	Graminae
Calathea lutea (Aubl.) G. F. W. Mey.	Marantaceae
Carludovica insignis Duchass.	Cyclanthaceae